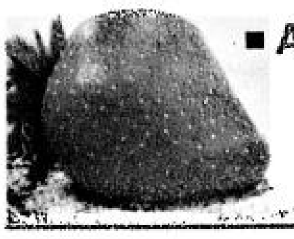


■ Across / A19

La Trinidad bakes giant strawberry cake

■ Sports/ A25

'Dark forces' out to seize power, says golf body

■ News/ A2

Imelda, brods share stage with Gloria

■ Entertainment/ A31

Movie producers stand by Phillip Salvador in estafa case

Tanong ng Bayan/ A23

Mga sundalo sa Iraq: Dapat bang bumalik na?

WITH EXCLUSIVE VIDEO FROM IRAQ

INQ TV

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Wednesday, March 24, 2004 ★★ 66 pages / 7 sections / vol. 19 / no. 107 P18

website: www.inq7.net

John O's son dragged into drug controversy

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Customs officials have seized 60 drums of chemicals used in making shabu which were imported from China by a supposed representative of a firm headed by an associate of Cebu Vice Gov. John Gre-

JOHN O's/ A22

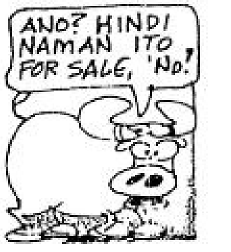
Just another text joke: Pidals buy into Inquirer

By Carlito Pablo

THE THINGS they're saying about the INQUIRER.

Text messages are making the rounds, attempting to drag the newspaper into the mire

JUST/ A6


ANO? HINDI NAMAN ITO FOR SALE, 'NO!

Graft charges filed vs GMA, Lopez firm

Senate bet says Maynilad granted 'unwarranted benefits'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Philip C. Tubeza

A SENATORIAL candidate in the ticket of presidential candidate Raul Roco yesterday filed graft charges against President Macapagal-Arroyo for allegedly causing "undue injury" to the government in the P8-billion "bailout" of Maynilad Water Services.

It was the third case filed against Ms Macapagal in two weeks.

On March 9, activists and lawyers filed a criminal complaint against Ms Macapagal for a Palace-sanctioned "illegal" arrangement that allowed detained President Joseph Estrada to spend time in his estate in Tanay, Rizal, without the approval of the Sandiganbayan.

On March 15, a member of Pro-Con(stitution) asked the Commission on Elections to disqualify Ms Macapagal because she allegedly exceeded the television ad time allotted each presidential candidate.

In a complaint filed with the Office of the Ombudsman, lawyer Melanio "Batas" Mauricio Jr. said Ms Macapagal violated the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act by giving "unwarranted benefits" to the cash-strapped Maynilad.

Also named in the complaint were acting Justice Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez, Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee and Benpres Holdings Corp. officials Oscar Lopez, Manuel Lopez, Steve Psinakis, Eugenio Lopez III, Felipe Alfonso, Washington Sycip, Vicente Paterno, Angel Ong, Eugene Quiason and Maria Amina Amado.

Benpres owns 61 percent of Maynilad, whose shares the government is set to take over follow-

GRAFT/ A21

"DA KINGS" meet for the first time since Dolphy was rendered "homeless" by ABS-CBN for his alleged support for FPJ who drops in for a heart to heart talk at a recording studio in Libis.

ABS woos Dolphy back home

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Marinel R. Cruz

ABS-CBN, the home studio of comedy king Dolphy, appears to have backtracked from its decision to cancel "Home Along Da Airport," according to a source close to the comedian.

A top executive of the giant network reportedly called Dolphy on Monday and asked him to resume taping on Friday.

"Dolphy said the network would give him another show that he will not be able to refuse," the source added.

The comedian, however, reportedly said he would not accept the offer.

Dolphy and Fernando Poe Jr. met Monday night during the taping of Poe's campaign jingle

ABS WOOS/ A21

1st debate: Confusion, humor, ads, only 2 bets

By Michael Lim Ubac and Blanche S. Rivera

THE PLANNED SERIES of presidential debates finally got off to a slow start the other night with only two candidates, Raul Roco and Eddie Villanueva, discussing population, poverty and human development.

The first of the debates dubbed "Tapatan sa Halalan 2004," aired live over ABS-CBN News Channel at 7-8:15 p.m. on Monday, was marred by confusion over the ground rules that ate into the airtime that was made even shorter by ad placements. Panelists and organizers also said they heard nothing new from the candidates.

Despite specific questions on population policies, Villanueva constantly steered the issue to moral degradation and corruption, while Roco upheld education as the solution to all problems and lambasted the absent presidential aspirants at almost every turn.

Still, Roco managed to pepper his statements with humor, while Villanueva was generally deadpan in his delivery.

Asked by a panelist why he tended to favor the position of the Catholic Church on family planning, Roco was careful not to lay the problem at the doorstep of the influential institution that opposes the use of contraceptives and other artificial methods of family planning.

"Why do you keep bringing up the Church?" said the standard-bearer of the Alyansa ng Pag-Asa.

"We have many children be-

1ST DEBATE/ A4

FPJ son's stepfather key supporter of actor

By Carlito Pablo

LOVE works in strange ways.

The businessman-husband of former movie starlet Ana Marin, with whom Fernando Poe Jr. has a love child, is a key supporter of the actor in his quest for the presidency.

Wilfredo "Jing" Espiritu is the legal guardian of Poe's 22-year-old son with Marin, Ronian Allan Poe.

He is also a founding member and part of the advisory council of the Concerned Entrepreneurs & Professionals for Progress (CEPP), a group of small- to medium-size entrepreneurs.

The group says on its Web page that its "immediate objective" is to support Poe's candidacy.

"This coming presidential election is an opportunity to choose a candidate who will work for the upliftment of small- and medium-sized entities, one whose heart and soul is for the greater majority," the CEPP says, referring to the actor.

Espiritu does not deny being the guardian of Poe's son and his role in the businessmen's club, CEPP executive vice president Reginald Francisco said on the phone.

"He's part of the advisory council," Francisco said. "Jing Espiritu is one of the founding members of the CEPP."

It was Francisco who answered the phone at Espiritu's supposed office number. He said Espiritu was not keen on talking to media

FPJ SON'S/ A21

THE CHARM OFFENSIVE ELECTION 2004

'White Knight' rides on firm leadership

Editor's Note: The INQUIRER continues a series of essays on the campaign style and impact of the five presidential candidates, a two-parter for each in alphabetical order.

By Elvira Mata
Desk Editor

(Last of two parts)

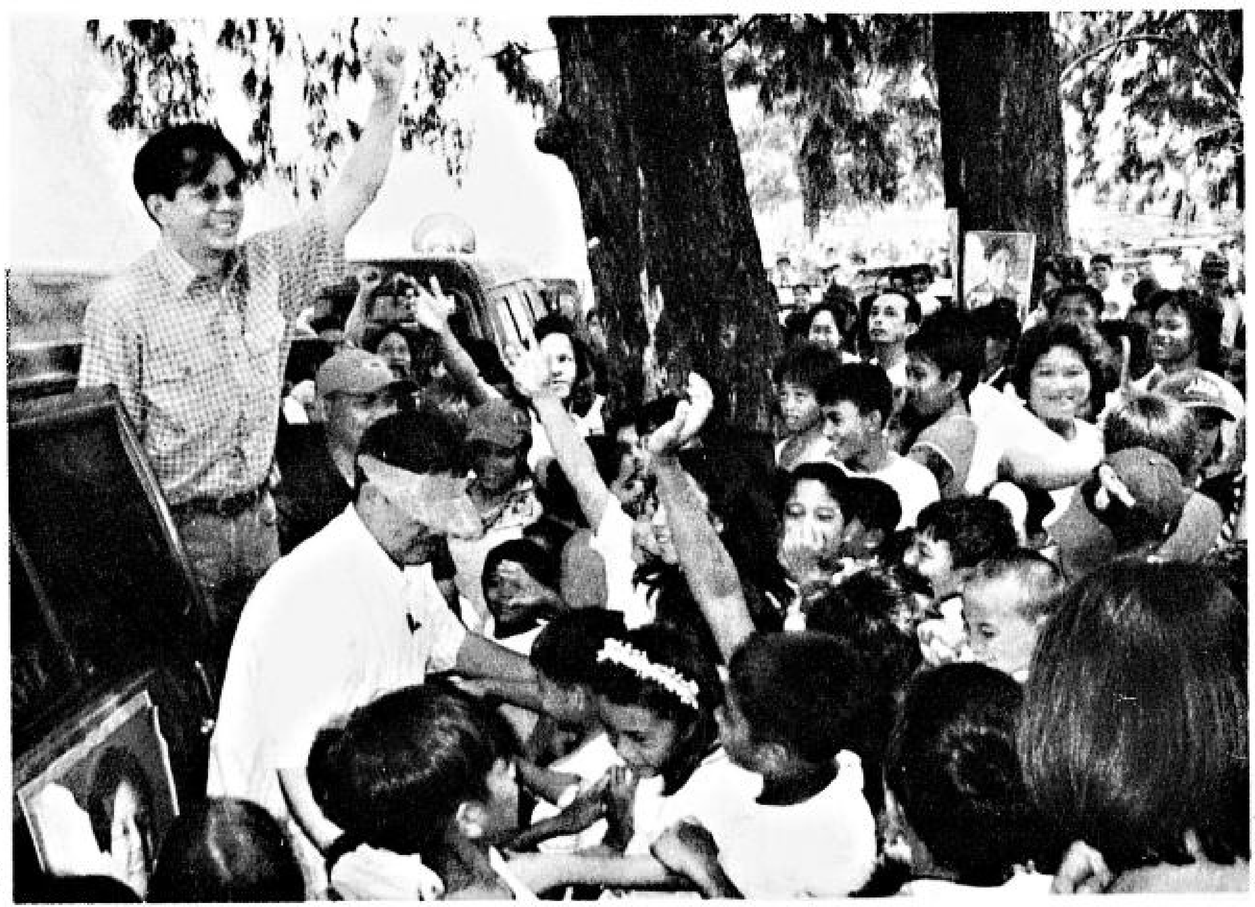
ROBINA Gokongwei-Pe is an unabashed fan of presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson. The eldest daughter of taipan John Gokongwei and former owner of The Manila Times once wrote a column about how she and her cousin were rescued by a white knight from their kidnappers in 1982.

She was, of course, referring to Lacson, then a lieutenant colonel, who tracked down the kidnap gang's hideout, kicked the door open and after making sure Robina and her cousin were all right, returned them to their families.

John reportedly offered him P500,000 as a token of appreciation. Lacson refused it.

This is one of the stories Laban ng

WHITE KNIGHT/ A22


JOE GALVEZ

STA. CRUZ, ZAMBALES: The man in his signature red plaid shirt delivers the same clear message calmly—of transparency in government, an iron hand to stop graft and corruption, the restoration of peace and order and leadership by example.

5-yr public high school starts June

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

BEGINNING IN June, public high schools will have a five-year curriculum.

Under its "Pre-Secondary Bridge Program," the Department of Education has added an extra year between Grade 6 and first year high school.

The five-year program will only be for incoming freshmen who are found to be deficient in elementary English, Science and Math subjects.

For one year, these students will have to brush up on their English, Science and Math before they can move on to the regular four-year curriculum.

Through the bridge program, the DepEd hopes to arrest the trend of a poor showing by public school students.

Its "diagnostic tests" in the past two years found that seven out of every 10 incoming public school freshmen had not mastered their elementary English, Science and Math subjects.

5-YR PUBLIC/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/03/24/04

FPJ spooked peso, says GMA

By Juliet Labog-Javellana
and Doris C. Dumlao

MALACAÑANG yesterday washed its hands off the plummeting peso and again blamed the recent sharp fall of the local currency on President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief rival for the presidency, movie actor Fernando Poe, Jr.

The President said the prospect of the "inexperienced" Poe winning in the May elections spooked the financial markets and led to the peso's fall to its lowest level ever.

"Our financial market is really nervous that someone with no experience in attracting the right investments would be installed," Ms Macapagal told reporters in Carigara, Leyte.

"And while our politics is marked by mudslinging and politicking, instead of issues, the financial market is really going to be nervous," she added.

In a statement, the President said: "The transient lag in the peso signals an underlying fear that the opposition, by its politicking, is dragging us to the past and crushing our hopes for the future."

Ms Macapagal said the weakening peso, the oil price hikes and other problems should be among the top priorities of the candidates in their platforms of government. She said candidates should explain their options and solutions to the people.

"We are not denying the economic problems we are facing but I believe I have the clout and experience to tackle these problems and protect the public interest," she said.

She said she has faith on Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Gov. Rafael Buenaventura to stem the peso depreciation.

Traders, however, have blamed the peso's steep fall in the last two trading days to concerns on the country's dwindling foreign exchange reserves.

Yesterday, the peso recovered after the BSP announced its plan to borrow $500 million to boost its foreign exchange reserves as well as improved outlook on the government's fiscal program.

After falling to historic lows for two straight days and hitting 56.45 on Monday, the peso yesterday opened at 56.435 and closed a bit stronger at the intra-day high of 56.37 to the dollar.

Volume, however, shrunk to $86.6 million from the $160 million turnover at the Philippine Dealing System on Monday when corporations scrambled for dollars.

Currency traders said expectations of fresh dollar inflows from a $500 million new borrowing planned by the BSP had helped stabilize the local currency yesterday.

Buenaventura yesterday said the BSP was testing the waters whether a $500 million borrowing, originally planned in the second semester, was now feasible.

He said inflows from foreign borrowings always help smoothen fluctuations in the exchange rate.

A foreign bank trader said the BSP stayed out of the market yesterday, although other traders believed that the institution again sold dollars at 56.41.

"The peso closed firmer on dollar short-selling and offshore inflows following news of better-than-expected budget deficit for February," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco.

"OFW (overseas Filipino workers) remittances also supported the peso," he added.

GMA shares stage with Imelda, brods

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MARCOS

IN A RARE political scene, former First Lady Imelda Marcos and her two brothers yesterday shared the stage with President Macapagal-Arroyo in one of her campaign activities in Leyte.

Ms Macapagal and Marcos greeted each other during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Tacloban City Astrodome in Tacloban, according to Press Secretary Milton Alingod.

He said Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez and former Ambassador to Washington Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez were with Marcos on the stage when the President arrived for the ceremony, one of several activities lined up for Ms Macapagal's campaign in the province.

Lupita Aquino-Kashiwara, campaign coordinator for Ms Macapagal and sister of the late Sen. Benigno Aquino who was slain during the Marcos regime, was seen talking to Kokoy Romualdez.

But the President's campaign spokesperson, Michael Defensor, quickly denied that Ms Macapagal had forged a political alliance with Marcos or the Romualdezes.

"Not with the Marcoses," Defensor said. He stressed that while Bejo Romualdez was seeking reelection as a Lakas-CMD candidate, it was only part of "local alliances."

"But as far as the Marcoses backing up the President, I don't think that's happening," he said.

The former first lady's eldest daughter, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, on the other hand, has openly endorsed the presidential bid of opposition front-runner Fernando Poe Jr.

"Sometimes you have to draw the line, (consider) the principles you espouse," Defensor said. He said the President's camp was mindful of the "kind of government we had during martial law and the graft and corruption that resulted" from Marcos' reign.

The President herself had called on the electorate to reject the cronies of Marcos and ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Malaysian peace monitors won't probe JI camps

By Jerome Aning
and Alcuin Papa

THE MALAYSIAN advance survey team on the Mindanao peace process will not investigate the alleged existence of Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist training camps in the region although it has been invited to do so.

"That's not in their (survey team's) mandate. There will be no probe of JI camps," said Malaysian Ambassador to the Philippines Mohammed Taufik as he led members of the survey team in paying a courtesy call yesterday on Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Rafael Seguis and members of the Philippine and Moro Islamic Liberation Front peace panels.

For his part, however, MILF peace panel member Robert Alonto said the survey team was free to look for JI camps in the MILF-held territories. He called reports of such camps "part of some people's imagination."

Seguis later told reporters the team could look into the reports of JI camps if they wanted, considering that Malaysia was the most assiduous nation in Southeast Asia when it came to ferreting out JI terror cells.

Alonto denied the MILF was training JI operatives. He admitted, however, that MILF camps had been visited recently by people who were welcomed as brother Muslims.

"But we don't know if they were JI or what. They just came and we welcomed them because they were Muslims. Being Muslim, they were brothers, but we didn't ask them if they were JI," he said.

Taufik introduced the 12 members of the survey team to Seguis, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos-Deles, government peace panel chair Silvestre Afable Jr. and Alonto.

He said Kuala Lumpur sent the team to initially look into the arrangements on the ground and the administrative requirements for the arrival of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) and the resumption of peace talks between the Philippine government and the MILF next month.

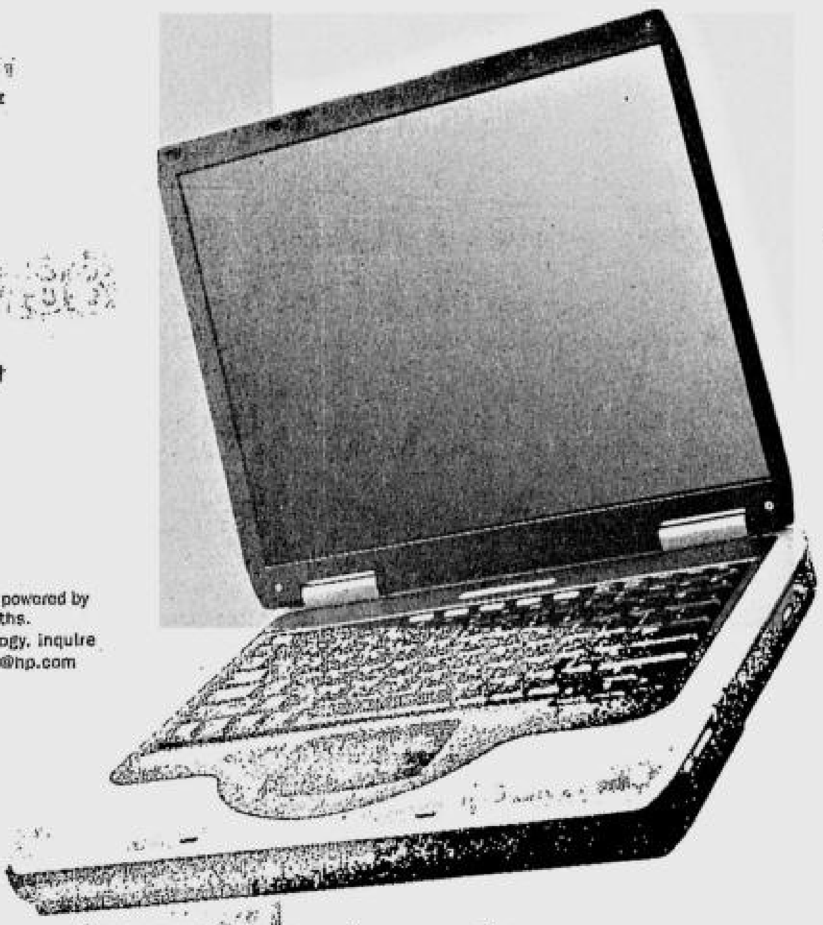
[illegible]
- Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 2.4GHz
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
- 35.6cm (14") screen
- 30GB HDD
- DVD-ROM
- 56kbps Modem
- 10/100 LAN
- 256MB DDR

[illegible]
per month,
0% interest for 6 months†
(SRP PhP 69,950.00)

Compaq recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Home.

BPI offers other HP or Compaq products powered by Intel® processors at 0% interest for 6 months.
So if you can't get enough of HP technology, inquire at 1-800-1331-4488 or email ph.contact@hp.com

†Exclusive for BPI cardholders.
Subject to bank approval.
0% applicable only if monthly dues are paid in full.



Take charge – with the power of Intel® processors – at 0% interest.

The Compaq Presario notebooks, powered by Intel® processors, they're the home notebooks that satisfy the needs of even die-hard desktop users. Equipped with multimedia tools that allow you to exercise your creativity and get some entertainment at home, you can download movie trailers, listen to CD's, upload digital photographs, and watch your favorite movies. Do all these, even when you're lounging by the pool. You can also keep in touch with friends across the globe, send emails while having lunch outside, access on-line information for a research project, or play on-line games when you're outdoors. It's all the mobile convenience you deserve. And that's not all, from March 24 to 28, 2004, buy these featured Compaq Presario notebooks using your BPI credit card and you can avail of the 0% interest, 6-month installment plan. So get going, visit your Compaq Presario resellers today!

Compaq Presario 2515AI
- Intel® Celeron® processor 2.8GHz
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
- 38.1cm (15") screen
- 30GB HDD
- CD-ROM
- 56kbps Modem
- 10/100 LAN
- 256MB DDR

PhP9,991.67
per month at 0% interest for 6 months†
(SRP PhP 59,950.00)

Compaq Presario 2584
- Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 2.66GHz
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
- 38.1cm (15") screen
- 60GB HDD
- DVD ROM/CD-Writer
- 56kbps Modem
- 10/100 LAN
- 256MB DDR

PhP14,991.67
per month at 0% interest for 6 months†
(SRP PhP 89,950.00)

HP is #1 in Notebooks and Commercial PCs in the Philippines.*

FOR MORE INFO

Call (632) 867- 3557
Or Toll-free 1- 800 -1331- 4488
Or email ph.contact@hp.com

COMPAQ hp invent

*Source: IDC Asia/Pacific Quarterly PC Tracker, 3Q 2003
PARTICIPATING COMPAQ PRESARIO RESELLERS: ABC Computer Center • Accent Micro • Complink Marketing • Columbia Computer Superstore • Electroworld • PC Live • Silicon Valley • TCA-The Computer Authority • Villman Computer Systems Inc.
©2004 Hewlett - Packard Development Company, L.P. All rights reserved. Intel, Pentium, Celeron, Intel Inside, and the Intel Inside logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Other products mentioned herein may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.

Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 0677, Series of 2004.

TOURIST ATTRACTION

Vietnam offers Spratlys tours

HANOI, Vietnam—Vietnam hopes to start bringing tourists to the territorially disputed Spratly islands next month, an official said Tuesday.

The first trip expected in mid-April would take about 100 tourists by boat to the islands where there are Vietnamese military outposts. The tour would then continue to oil rigs located near the Spratlys and also to Phu Quoc island—not part of the disputed atolls—off Vietnam's southern coast, said Do Nhu Phu, chair of the People's Committee of the Spratly Islands District.

"We have to learn some experience from the first tour before we could offer regular tours to both local and foreign tourists in the future," he said.

The tour will be run by Hai Thanh company, an affiliate of the Navy Command, he said.

The Spratlys, believed to have rich oil and natural gas reserves in the South China Sea, some 500 kilometers (310 miles) off Vietnam's central coast, is claimed in whole or in part by Vietnam, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia.

The conflicting claims have led to recent squabbles, including a 2002 incident when Vietnam fired warning shots at Philippine military planes and a number of spats over fishermen crossing into the wrong waters. *AP*

Panasonic
ideas for life

The high performing fax machine.
No wonder people choose Panasonic.

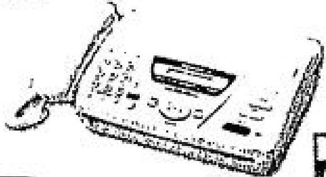
Thermal

Before P5,990
Now P5,790

KX-FT71

Before P6,990
Now P 6,490

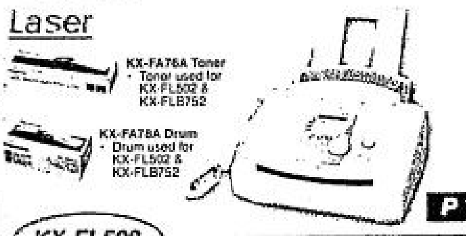
KX-FT73



Before P8,990
Now P 7,990

KX-FT77

Laser



KX-FA76A Toner
• Toner used for KX-FL502 & KX-FLB752

KX-FA78A Drum
• Drum used for KX-FL502 & KX-FLB752

P 19,990

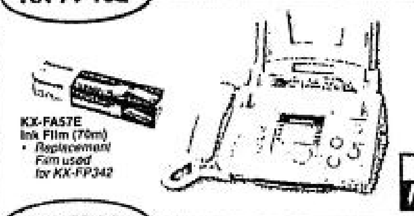
KX-FL502

Plain Paper

KX-FA55A Ink Film (2 X 50m)
• Replacement Film used for KX-FP81, KXFP85 & KX-FP152

Before P7,990
Now P 6,990

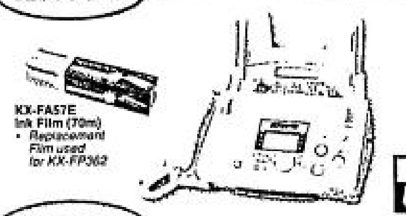
KX-FP152



KX-FA57E Ink Film (70m)
• Replacement Film used for KX-FP342

Before P8,490
Now P 7,990

KX-FP342



KX-FA57E Ink Film (70m)
• Replacement Film used for KX-FP362

Before P9,990
Now P 9,490

KX-FP362

KX-FA136A Ink Film (2 X 100m)
• Replacement Film used for KX FP1010, KX-FP1110, KX FP105 & KX-FM131

P 14,900

KX-FM131

KEY FEATURES	KX-FT71	KX-FT73	KX-FT77	KX-FP152	KX-FP342	KX-FP362	KX-FM131	KX-FL502
Automatic Paper Cutter		●	●					
Document Feeder	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	15 sheets	15 sheets
Navigator Key	●	●	●	●	●	●		
64-Level Halftone	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Copy Speed				2 PPM	4 PPM	4 PPM	2 PPM	10 PPM
Digital Speaker Phone			●			●	●	
Document Memory			20 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	120 pages (max)
Digital Answering System			●			●	●	
Sequential Broadcast			10 locations	20 locations	20 locations	20 locations	60 locations	60 locations
Printer Function							●	
Scanner Function							●	
PC Fax Function							●	

*Prices (SRP based), features and design are subject to change without prior notice.

To refer you to our dealers, please contact:
Panasonic Philippines (Sales Division of Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation)
3rd Floor Montivar Bldg., No. 34 Jupiter cor. Planet Sts., Bel-Air IV, Makati City Tel. Nos. 899-4595 to 98 · Fax No. 897-4558

Federal
HARDWARE
BUILDER'S CENTER

RENOVATION SALE
ON SELECTED ITEMS

APOLLO Am-Pro™ BESTANK DRAPEWARE Hen Gang Eagle
EURO CROCODILE SurE Five Seasons SELLERY MOEN SOBO The Powerful Choice BONA-BRASS

TILES TOOLS PAINTS LUMBER CAR CARE
ELECTRICAL PLUMBING LAWN & GARDEN

CASH TRANSACTIONS ONLY

•**MAKATI** Tel. 893-1654 • 893-1690 **E.RODRIGUEZ** Tel. 732-1906 •**CUBAO** Tel. 421-9250 •**COMMONWEALTH** Tel. 428-4844 •**TAYTAY** Tels. 284-2206 • 665-3442 •**CAINTA** Tel. 678-1638 •**SUCAT** Tel. 788-0773 **ALABANG TOWN CENTER** Tel. 807-6508 **BACOOR, CAVITE** Tel. (046) 870-2598 **IMUS, CAVITE** Tel. (046) 875-4840 **DASMARIÑAS** Tel. (046) 416-3743 •**MAKILING, CALAMBA** Tel. (049) 245-6667 •**BIÑAN** Tel. (049) 839-2069 **SAN PABLO** Tel. (049) 562-7361 •**BOCAUE** Tel. (044) 692-6719 •**ANGELES** Tel. (045) 888-4186 **MABALACAT** Tel. (045) 893-3872 **TARLAC** (045) 611-0326

*OPEN MONDAYS THRU SUNDAYS 8:30 AM TO 7:30 PM

NOW OPEN FEDERAL-ALABANG TOWN CENTER 2nd Level, Town Plaza Tel. 807-6508

PROMO PERIOD:
MARCH 16 TO APRIL 4, 2004
Per DTI-NCR Permit NO. 1226 Series of 2004
BUILD MORE FOR LESS

Blemishes...Rough Skin...Enlarged Pores...
Are you really happy with your skin?

Facial care centre
Where Beautiful Skin Happens

When you look in the mirror, do you still like what you see? Does your skin look rough and scaly? Or does it show enlarged pores with noticeable blemishes?

If your skin looks like it needs thorough repair and improvement, then go for the **Facial Care Centre's Firming Facial.** It rids your skin of deep-seated dirt and impurities, making it clearer, smoother and finer. Coupled with **Lymphatic Drainage Treatment**, which flushes out toxins to lighten and smoothen the complexion and even reduce eye area shadows and puffiness, you're sure to have fit, healthy-glowing skin.

Now go on, look closely in the mirror...and tell yourself if you truly like what you see. If not, come to the Facial Care Centre.

The Facial Care Centre has professional skincare consultants, in-house dermatologists, and well-trained therapists. So you're sure to get nothing but the best skincare service. Call now.

FREE 1 FIRMING FACIAL AND 1 ADVANCED LASERTONE TREATMENT UPON ENROLLMENT ON SELECTED TREATMENTS UNTIL MARCH 27, 2004 ONLY.

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	SHAW	ALABANG	BINONDO	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
816 1259	687 2196	372 6633	534 7701/02	842 1144	243 8138/39	920 7938	961 3404/08	233 7631
815 3121	687 2197	372 6634	717 0076	809 9583	243 8602	920 7992	860 2663/64	233 7633/35

OPENING HOURS. MON-FRI: 8:00AM-7:00PM · SAT: 8:00AM-5:00PM
www.facialcarecentre.com.ph

1st debate: Confusion, humor, ads, only 2 bets

From page A1

cause I think [most parents] are poor; they have nothing else to do [but make babies] because there is no electricity [in the countryside]," he said, eliciting laughter from the audience composed of diplomats, academics, population analysts, journalists, advocates and students.

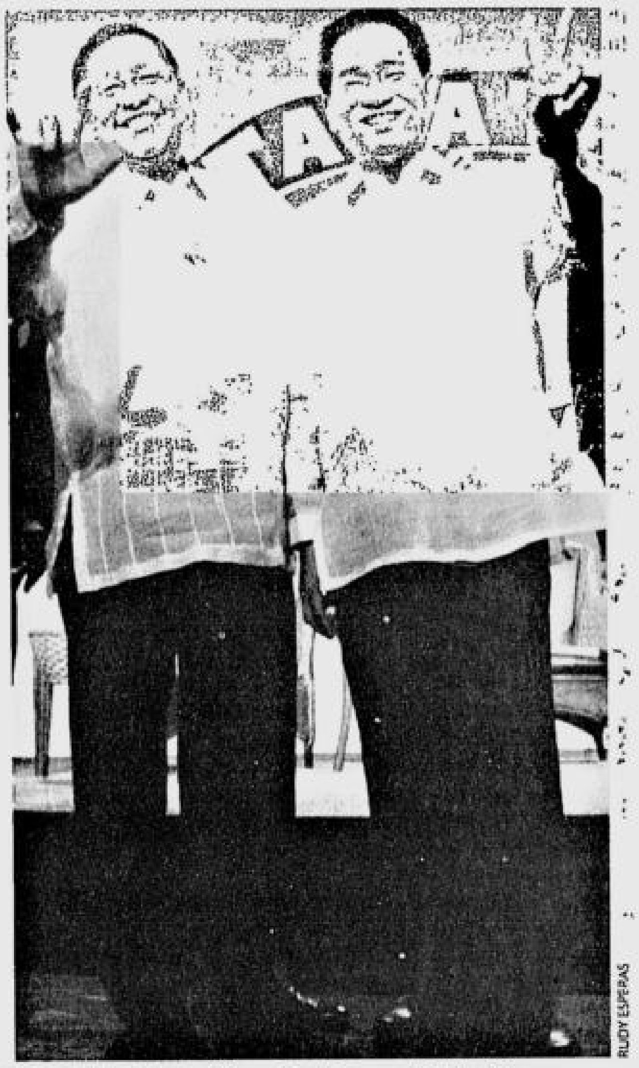
According to Roco, the population, now standing at 82 million and expected to double in 28 years, is reflective of the prevailing poverty.

"So there must be a true pro-poor policy [on population management]," he said. "There must be a conscious effort to be pro-poor. The poor pin their hopes on the young, and that is why we say, *kaalaman sa edukasyon* (knowledge through education). That is the real solution."

Freedom of choice

Evangelist Villanueva, standard-bearer of Bangon Pilipinas, said he favored educating couples on various family management programs "as long as we are respecting the religious belief of anyone, [or their] freedom of choice, and as long as the choice is not damaging to life."

He said that should he win, he is willing to commit public funds to support population management programs.


RUDY ESPERAS

PRESIDENTIAL candidates Raul Roco and Eddie Villanueva flash their campaign signs after the first of a series of debates.

"I'm more than willing to stake everything as far as advancing the national interest of this country [is concerned] ... so that we can help free the nation from the bondage of poverty," he said.

Failure of politicians

In his closing statement, Villanueva said: "People should not blame population alone for the lack of employment, ... for homeless Filipinos, or the poverty of our people. Blame it on the failure of politicians to establish a government that will truly serve the people, due to shocking gargantuan corruption."

He said the education of couples on reproductive health was necessary so that a family management program based on religion-free individual choices could work.

Roco said the Alyansa ng Pag-Asa's Agenda of Hope favored population management to propel and ensure sustainable economic development.

But he stressed that couples should have free choice of family planning methods. He said the state should not enforce a particular method in order to allow each couple to plan their family according to their religious belief.

Ground rules

The Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) led by its chair, reelectionist Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Pulse Asia and the Philippine Political Science Association co-sponsored the debate.

Roco and Villanueva were not asked identical questions, and were not allowed to rebut each other's positions.

A sour note was sounded early on when host Tina Monzon-Palma cut Villanueva short and said: "Can I just get clarification here from the organizers? Is the question posed to all the candidates, or are you asking each of the candidates [separate] questions?"

Caught by surprise, no one from the organizers or the three panelists—Dr. Ernesto Pernia of the University of the Philippines School of Economics, INQUIRER columnist Rina Jimenez-David and Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) president Donald Dee—could offer an answer.

Drawing lots

Roco was moved to tell Palma that he and Villanueva had earlier drawn lots four times to determine who between them should talk, or be asked, first.

"[The result of the drawing of lots is] I'm always the last [to be asked]. But the first shall be last," said Roco, eliciting chuckles from the audience.

But Palma continued: "A question asked by panelists will be answered by both candidates? Is this your rule or have you adopted [this earlier]? What have you agreed on?"

An organizer subsequently told Palma that the panelists could each ask two different questions.

The host then called for a break to clarify the issue. Later, she asked one of the organizers to sit beside her to guide her through the debate.

Abortion

Columnist David cited background data in the course of asking Villanueva for his stand on abortion, but had to contend with Palma badgering her to hurry up with her question.

Villanueva said he was pro-life, so he was against abortion. But he explained that the mother's health should be taken into account, and that "it is important for parents to exercise their democratic rights to determine the number of children."

Professor Pernia had his share of lumps. Before he could finish laying down the predicate of his question, Palma bluntly told him: "Your time is up."

But Roco proceeded to answer Pernia's question on why his stand on population management was "not too different" from President Macapagal-Arroyo's stated view that family planning was a matter best left to individual conscience.

"Do we have to tell parents not to follow their conscience? That is wrong," Roco said in stressing that there was no question that population should be managed.

He pointed out that the Constitution itself highlights the importance of population management vis-a-vis economic growth, but is careful not to coerce couples to employ a certain family planning method.

Roco also debunked claims that the failure to compel Filipinos to practice safe sex through the use of condoms was causing the continued spread of AIDS in the country.

He said Thailand was using more condoms than the Philippines yet had the highest incidence of AIDS in Asia.

He also said the runaway population growth was ultimately a reflection of the failure of leadership.

Profit with honor

Roco underscored the correlation of population management with employment, people's access to lower power rates with education, cutting the budget deficit with removing the debt burden from taxpayers.

Asked by Ecop president Dee about the issue of legislating wages, Roco said: "It was Ford who said, 'I want my workers paid well so that they can buy my car.' That is what every socially responsible corporate entity should think about: profit with honor."

He said he favored the role played by regional wage boards in pegging the minimum wage because of the varying standards of living across the country.

Ad placements

The debate ended on a friendly note between the two candidates, although a number of Bangon Pilipinas supporters questioned Roco's ad placement during the show.

The PLCPD expressed surprise that their ABS-CBN partner had sold commercial spots in the supposedly no-disruptions no-break debate.

A representative of the committee said they had tried to ask Villanueva for his own television ad in order to be fair to the evangelist. But it turned out that Bangon Pilipinas had yet to release his video.

No time to be specific

Of what was discussed, Pernia said: "I know these things inside out, so I did not learn anything ... I am not satisfied. There was no time to be specific."

He observed that both Roco and Villanueva played it safe on questions pertaining to policies that could provoke the anger of the Catholic Church.

Pernia said there appeared to be "a lingering fear because [candidates] go to bishops to get endorsements."

Krisel Lagman said Villanueva and Roco dished out "motherhood statements"—the same things, she noted, that they were saying in their campaign sorties.

She expressed regret at the absence of Sen. Panfilo Lacson—the only candidate, she pointed out, who was open in his support of artificial methods of family planning and the most blunt in expounding on his stance on issues.

In sum, Lagman said, population issues did not rank high on the priority list of the two candidates.

5 days to go
SHOP LIKE WILD!
SAVE LIKE CRAZY!

Appliance installment showdown *
All items! All brands!
0% INTEREST

UNBEATABLE OFFERS!
UNPARALLELELED DEALS!...
GOES ON AT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
ACTIVITY CENTER
MARCH 15-28, 2004

- ALL ITEMS, ALL BRANDS AT 3 MONTH PAYMENT TERM AND 4, 9, 12, 18 AND 24 MONTHS ON GREAT SELECTIONS.
- MINIMUM PURCHASE REQUIREMENT OF =P=3,000.00
- ZERO INTEREST IS AVAILABLE AT ALL ANSON EMPORIUM BRANCHES

JVC ● SAMSUNG ● PANASONIC ● PHILIPS ● PIONEER ● CARRIER
CONDURA ● KELVINATOR ● WHIRLPOOL ● SHARP ● FEDDERS/KOPPEL
LA GERMANIA ● GE ● ELBA ● KOLIN ● TCL ● CANON ● AMERICAN HOME
PHILIPPE GADGET ● FURNITURE

FREE DELIVERY ON SELECTED METRO MANILA AREAS!
CITIBANK ● BPI ● METROBANK VISA/MASTERCARD ● STANDARD CHARTERED
HSBC ● EQUITABLE CARD NETWORK ● DINERS CLUB INTERNATIONAL
MY DREAM JCB BANKARD

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0553 Series of 2004

Anson EMPORIUM
WE BEAT ANYBODY'S PRICE!

VISIT OUR BRANCHES AT:

ANSON BLDG., AYALA CENTER A. ARNAIZ ST., MAKATI CITY
TEL. NOS.: 843-5046 / 892-2208 / 892-1392

3RD FLOOR THE LANDMARK
TEL. NOS.: 810-9990 Loc. 2105, 2107 . 819-1513 - 14 / 819-1354 / 817-0241

ROBINSONS GALLERIA EDSA NODE LEVEL-3
TEL. NOS.: 632-9479 / 632-9482 - 85

800 SALAZAR ST., BINONDO, MANILA
TEL NOS.: 243-2097 / 243-2101 / 243-2092

ALABANG TOWN CENTER MADRIGAL AVE., (Beside BPI)
TEL. NOS.: 772-3680 - 86

FOR YOUR PERSONAL NEEDS AND CORPORATE TRANSACTIONS, LOOK FOR DEXTER, TESSIE OR CECILLE
TEL. NOS.: 845-3006-08 / 892-1357 / FAX 892-1396

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.ansons.com.ph

SC says it's final: FPJ is natural-born Pinoy

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT'S ALL OVER—for now.

Fernando Poe Jr. cleared the last legal obstacle to his presidential candidacy yesterday when the Supreme Court denied with finality motions for it to overturn its previous ruling declaring the actor a natural-born Filipino and qualified to run for President.

In a two-page en banc resolution released in Baguio City, where the justices are holding their summer sessions, the high court voted—again by 8 to 5— to dismiss the motions for reconsideration filed by lawyers Victorino Fornier, Ma. Jeanette Tecson and Felix Desiderio.

"The court, maintaining the same vote, resolved to deny with finality the aforesaid separate motions for reconsideration, as the basic issues raised therein have been passed upon by this court and no substantial arguments were presented to warrant the reversal of the questioned decision," the SC said.

"Let entry of judgement be made in due course," it added, meaning it would no longer entertain further appeals.

Poe expressed elation over the decision, his spokesman, Rep. Francis Escudero, yesterday.

Escudero said Poe was going over the final schedule of his Cebu and Bohol sorties this weekend when news reached him of the Court's move to clear all legal hurdles to his running for the presidency.

Poe never doubted for a moment that the High Court would affirm the truth that he is a natural-born Filipino, a requirement for presidential candidates.

"The suit was conceived in sin. It was not only meant to cripple Mr. Poe's candidacy but also to take him out of the race totally. Fortunately, justice triumphed, "he said.

Escudero said the decision made the action star "more determined in fighting this administration. He doesn't want others to go through the persecution he just went through."

"As a result, he vowed not to use the vast resources of the government in tormenting a private citizen. As a victim, he saw firsthand how power can be abused," he said.

Asked by reporters to comment on the latest court ruling, President Macapagal-Arroyo simply said the courts must prevail.

"I have no reaction, I've never had a reaction to that case," she said in Carigara, Leyte. She added: "Let the rule of law prevail."

The President is locked in a neck-and-neck race with Poe in opinion surveys.

Justices Jose Vitug and Artemio Panganiban, both on leave, did not participate in the deliberations.

The court,. also voting 8-5, ruled on March 3 that Poe was a natural-born Filipino, saying petitioner Fornier utterly failed to substantiate his case. Fornier had gone to the court to dispute the Commission on Elections' earlier decision throwing out his protest against Poe's candidacy.

The high court had dismissed Tecson's and Desiderio's separate petition for lack of jurisdiction and for being premature.

Fight is not over

Tecson and Desiderio questioned Poe's qualification as a presidential candidate but the tribunal said it could rule on their petition only after the elections.

Reacting to the court's decision yesterday, Tecson said the fight was not over.

"This does not close the case with finality because the (March 3) decision was clear in saying that cases can still be filed after the elections, if Fernando Poe wins, to question his citizenship," Tecson said on ANC television.

"In lay man's terms, they were saying, 'Come back to us after the election and we will try this,'" Tecson added.

Under the constitution, the Supreme Court is the sole judge of all contests relating to election returns and disqualifications, lawyers say.

In their motion for reconsideration, Tecson and Desiderio said the SC should have ruled on their petition to avoid more legal disputes after the election if Poe won.

"The view of the majority of the members of the court that the substantive issues raised in the petitions can be heard again and decided with finality after the elections, if (Poe) wins, only encourages future litigations and multiplicity of suits," Tecson said.

Fornier, in his original petition, claimed Poe put down in his certificate of candidacy that he was a natural-born Filipino citizen when he allegedly knew that he was not. He added that the Comelec committed a grave abuse of discretion when it dismissed his petition to disqualify Poe.

The court rejected Fornier's arguments.

"While the totality of the evidence may not establish conclusively that respondent FPJ is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, the evidence on hand still would preponderate in his favor," the tribunal said in its March 3 decision. *With Juliet Labog-Javellana and Delmar Carino, Northern Luzon Bureau*

With DQ case out of the way, FPJ ventures into Ping's turf

By Carlito Pablo

NOW that the disqualification case is out of the way of his presidential bid, opposition front-runner Fernando Poe Jr. is all set to conquer the hearts and minds, and eventually the deep pockets, of the influential Filipino-Chinese community.

According to Rep. Harry Angping (NPC, Manila), the popular actor is scheduled to address a luncheon meeting of Chinoy organizations in Chinatown in Binondo on March 30.

"All bets are in," said Angping, one of the first congressmen belonging to Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) to openly declare support for Poe, as he noted that reelectionist President Macapagal-Arroyo and opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson were assiduously courting the support of the Filipino-Chinese businessmen.

"FPJ is coming to town and he's going to show who's Da King," Angping said jokingly.

New darling?

Angping explained that Lacson had been the "darling" of the Chinoy community because he had helped a lot of them during his years as police law enforcer. "But somehow, Ping Lacson has lost the luster and FPJ is now being seriously considered by the Chinese-Filipino community," he said.

Poe's lack of experience, particularly in law enforcement compared to Lacson, does not really bother the Filipino-Chinese community, according to Angping.

"The community is looking at the totality of Poe's image and because of his known sincerity as a person, a lot believe that he can govern if elected President," Angping said.

It also won't hurt Poe's presidential bid if he does not have any formal training in business and economics, according to Angping. "As long as there is peace and order, the Chinese-Filipino community will thrive as far as business and enterprise are concerned."

Financial support

Asked if the Chinoy community would shift its financial support from Lacson to Poe, Angping said: "Gradually. Slowly but surely."

He, however, conceded that by practice, bulk of the campaign contributions coming from the Chinese-Filipino community will go to the incumbent, Ms Macapagal.

"By tradition, the community will always support the incumbent," Angping said.

Angping admitted though that the disqualification suit against Poe had unnerved potential contributors. "But that (disqualification) is over and we can now look forward to a stronger bond between the community and FPJ," Angping said.

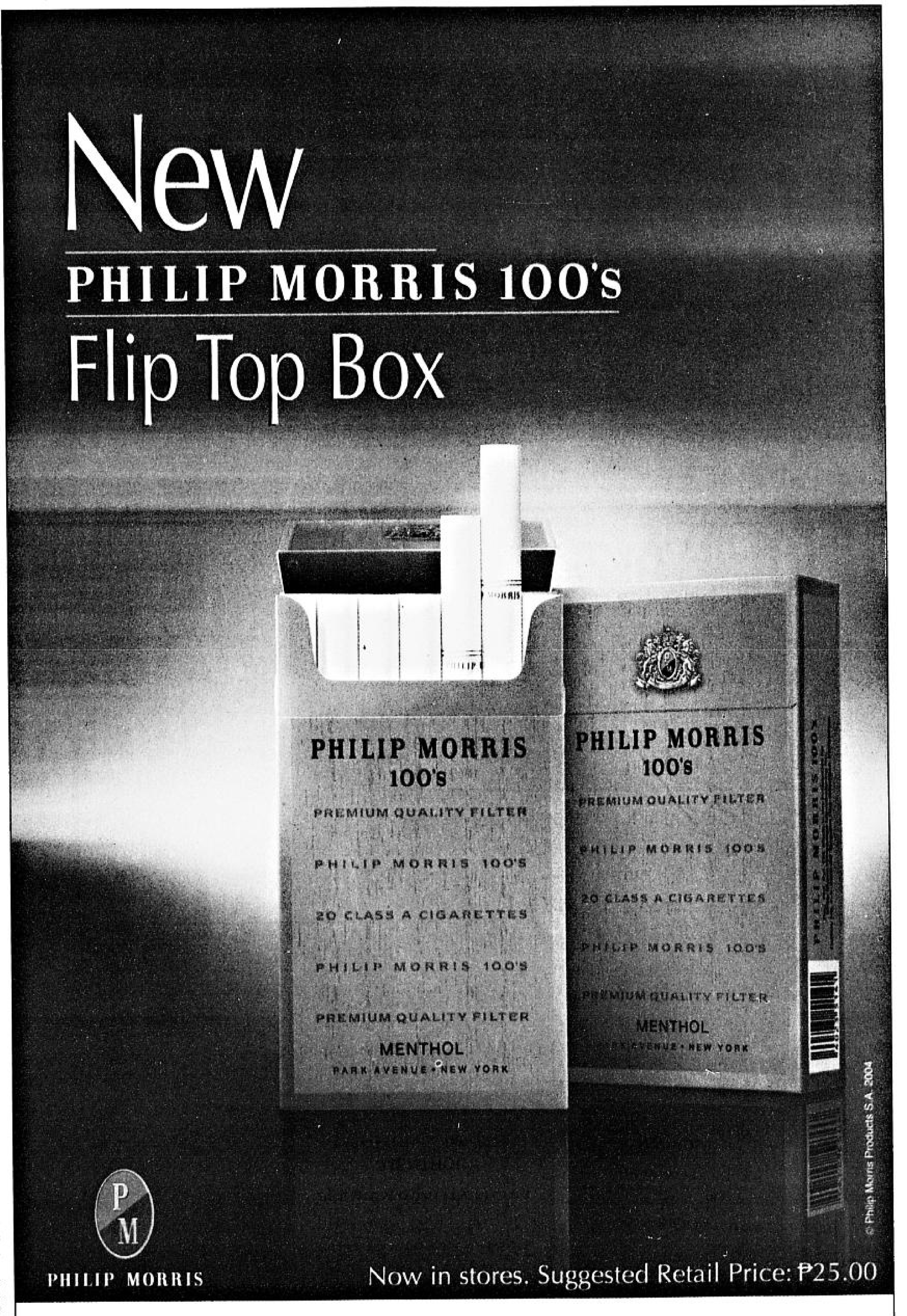
Angping said that Poe will attend the gathering of Filipino-Chinese businessmen at the famous President Restaurant on Ongpin Street next Tuesday.

Before rubbing elbows with these traditional campaign fund contributors, Poe will take a walk in Chinatown, where he used to eat meals when he was a young actor, said Angping. The popular actor is also expected to visit Escolta as well as the inner streets of Binondo.

R. Victorio; 90

ROBERTA Rojas Victorio of Caloocan City died on March 22 at the age of 90.

Her remains lie at the Floresco Funeral Home, A. Mabini, Caloocan City. Interment will be on March 27 at Eternal Gardens, Balintawak, after the 9 a.m. Mass.


New
PHILIP MORRIS 100's
Flip Top Box
PHILIP MORRIS 100's PREMIUM QUALITY FILTER
20 CLASS A CIGARETTES
MENTHOL
PARK AVENUE • NEW YORK
PHILIP MORRIS
Now in stores. Suggested Retail Price: ₱25.00
© Philip Morris Products S.A. 2004

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

Just another text joke …

From page A1

of the election campaign and even calling for a boycott.

One reads: "51 percent of shares in INQUIRER bought by Mr. and Mrs. Jose Pidal. PDI a propaganda tool of the Malacañang. Stop buying."

Another reads: "Pidal family bought 51 percent of PDI to gain control of the paper and project the candidacy of GMA."

The Pidals apparently being referred to are President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, who was accused last year of laundering millions of pesos of his wife's campaign funds and depositing the money in bank accounts under the name Jose Pidal. Arroyo's younger brother Ignacio subsequently came forward to claim ownership of the bank accounts.

Reacting to the text messages, INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez denied the alleged purchase of 51 percent of the newspaper's shares by the persons mentioned.

She said the existing share holdings of the INQUIRER had not changed.

Perceptions

Sought for comment on the issue of the text messages, opposition senatorial candidate Francisco "Kit" Tatad said there were indeed perceptions that certain newspapers were "aggressively pushing for the side of the administration for the elections."

Asked if he agreed with the text messages, particularly with respect to the INQUIRER, Tatad said: "Most unfortunately, I do."

But he said buying a particular newspaper was a hard habit to break, when asked if perceptions of partisanship could affect the newspaper preferences of the buying public.

Ridiculous

Ernesto "Boy" Herrera, another opposition senatorial candidate, said his camp had nothing to do with the anti-INQUIRER text messages.

"For one, the opposition does not believe that the INQUIRER will allow itself to be used by either the administration or the opposition," Herrera said in a separate interview.

He said the call for a boycott of the INQUIRER was "ridiculous and absurd" and had "absolutely no basis."

Herrera also said he personally knew of a number of businessmen who wanted to buy into the INQUIRER, but the owners had been steadfast in retaining full control of the newspaper in order to preserve its independence.

Estrada's boycott

Tatad and Herrera are seeking Senate seats under the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, which has movie idol Fernando Poe Jr. for its standard-bearer.

Poe, who is running neck-and-neck with Ms Macapagal in the surveys, enjoys the backing of deposed President Joseph Estrada, his best friend.

During his abbreviated term, Estrada instigated an advertising boycott of the INQUIRER.

HAVE A SMASHING SUMMER!
Study at
BIG DISCOUNT PACKAGE
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE
- SCP The Success & Confidence Building Program
- CP 1 On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
- CP 2 On Grammar & Conversational English
- CP 3 On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
- WP 1 On Business & Technical Writing
- WP 2 On Feature & Creative Writing
- JCP On Speech, Grammar, Public Speaking, Confidence Bldg., Personality Dev't.,
  - Reading and Comprehension for kids
PRIVATE TUTORING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE
MAKATI 845-0886 / 753-1049
ALABANG 753-1048

IWATA DURABLE & RELIABLE ALMOST 20 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW
TIME RECORDERS, PROJECTORS & FANS
P12,850.00
CW-1A/1color ribbon, int/ext melody, operates during brown-outs
CH-1A P9,300
E2A P10,150
IWATA-1E P4,895
SEALERS IMPULSE & DIRECT HEAT SEALERS
LAMINATORS 6" - P2,950 8" - P3,500
HEAVY DUTY
IWATA INDUSTRIAL FAN
HAND SEALER 8" - P575 4" - P470
RECHARGEABLE SPOTLIGHT 280,000 C.P. P 999. 500,000 C.P. P1,200. 1 MILLION C.P. P1,650.
TEW PUSH BUTTON P3,950(S) P5,300 AUTOMATIC P6,200
HEAVY DUTY 3 STEEL BLADES 30" Diameter P3,890
14" FOOT SEALER P8,900
Sole Distributor COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Suite 200 Del Monte Mansion Bldg., Del Monte Ave. cor Speaker Perez St. Quezon City TELS 740-3815,742-8139, 412-4317, 411-2385 to 98, 411-7157, 414-9890 Fax 411-2399 E-mail colent@sfi.com.ph

WARNING & NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY WARNED THAT ANY OFFICIAL RECEIPT OF EMPEROR TRAVEL AND TOURS INC. WITH OFFICES AT UNIT G-6 472 PADRE FAURA CENTER, M.H. DEL PILAR ST, ERMITA MANILA, AND 2ND FLOOR 980 MANILA-CAVITE ROAD, DALAHICAN, CAVITE CITY ISSUED AND DELIVERED OUTSIDE THEIR OFFICES TO ANY PERSON SHALL NOT BE HONORED UNLESS THE SAME IS VALIDATED AND FOUND TO BE AUTHENTIC BY ITS RESERVATION OFFICERS, NAMELY: MARIVIC C. LEE AND OLIVIA U. DY.

ANY UNVALIDATED OFFICIAL RECEIPTS SHALL THEREFORE BE CONSIDERED SPURIOUS, FAKE AND ORIGINATING FROM UNAUTHORIZED SOURCES. POSSESSOR OF THIS UNAUTHORIZED AND UNVALIDATED OFFICIAL RECEIPTS OF THE AFORE-NAMED BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CRIMINAL AND CIVIL PROSECUTIONS

COPIERS Sales / Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
ALSO AVAILABLE: LIQUID COPIERS
BRAND NEW! RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS P49,900. ONLY
P15,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320 15CPM
BRAND NEW! CANON FC 280 FOR PERSONAL USE P17,500. ONLY
P20,000. ONLY BRAND NEW! FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS!
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56 781-3472 • 749-8216
- RINGBINDERS / LAMINATORS CUTTERS / BLUEPRINT / RISO FAX MACHINES, ETC.
- ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS FOR SHORT EVENTS
- BUY / TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

OFFICE CLUB.com THE NEW WAY TO OFFICE www.officeclub.com.ph
COMPLETE SCHOOL / OFFICE SUPPLIES, OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT
Call for Free 48 pages Catalog
BANQUET TABLE P 1,800.00
STEEL STORAGE CABINET P 4,995.00
COMPUTER GAS LIFT P 985.00
BANKERS COPY SHORT P 130.00
4 DRAWERS W/ METAL SWING P 5,995.00
MEETING TABLE from P 2,150.00
S 50 P 3,650.00
JUMBO CASH BOX P 985.00
DESKTOP WATER DISPENSER P 2,995.00
STUDENT COMPUTER TABLE P 1,950.00
COLOR INK JET PAPER P 340.00
DATER STAMP PAID FAX RECIEVED P 30.00
GUN SAFE P 7,500.00
LOBBY CHAIR P 1,865.00
COFFEE TABLE from P 3,150.00

MANILA
344 Nueva St. Binondo Manila
Tel No 244 7211 up to 15
Fax No 243 1875
E Mail Add sales@officeclub.com.ph

MAKATI
814 A Amaiz Ave. Makati City
Tel No 752 8378 up to 81
Fax No 752 8370
E Mail Add oc_makati@yahoo.com

SAN JUAN
55 Annapolis St. Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel No 724-7262 / 724-7985

THE ORIGINAL! MAGIC SING VIDEOKE MICROPHONE
THE INTERNATIONAL VERSION
EXCELLÉNCE IN VALUE AND FUNCTION with Advanced Record and Play Feature.
EXCELLÉNCE IN PICTURE BACKGROUNDS with 76 international heritage sites and attractions including 15 spots from the Philippines.
EXCELLÉNCE IN ORIENTATION with 2 National awards in Product Innovation and Service Marketing.
EXCELLÉNCE is ASTRA MAGIC SING A CONVERGENCE OF SERVICE & QUALITY
MAGIC SING EXCELLÉNCE IS DISTINCT FROM OTHER EXISTING VERSIONS.
Official Philippine Distributor
THE ASTRA GROUP, INC.
G/F Richbelt Tower Condominium, #17 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan
Tel. Nos. 722-4056, 722-6786, 705-1321 www.astramagicsing.com
Manufactured by ET ENTER TECH CO.LTD. (Korea)
Available at: SM Appliance Centers • Rustan's Department Stores • Anson's Emporium • Crossings Department Store • Ambassador Appliances • Hotel Rembrandt • Sound Dimension • Pritchlon Audio Vision Services • 5th Ave. Electronic City • Gaisano White Gold • Metro Gaisano • Gaisano South Group

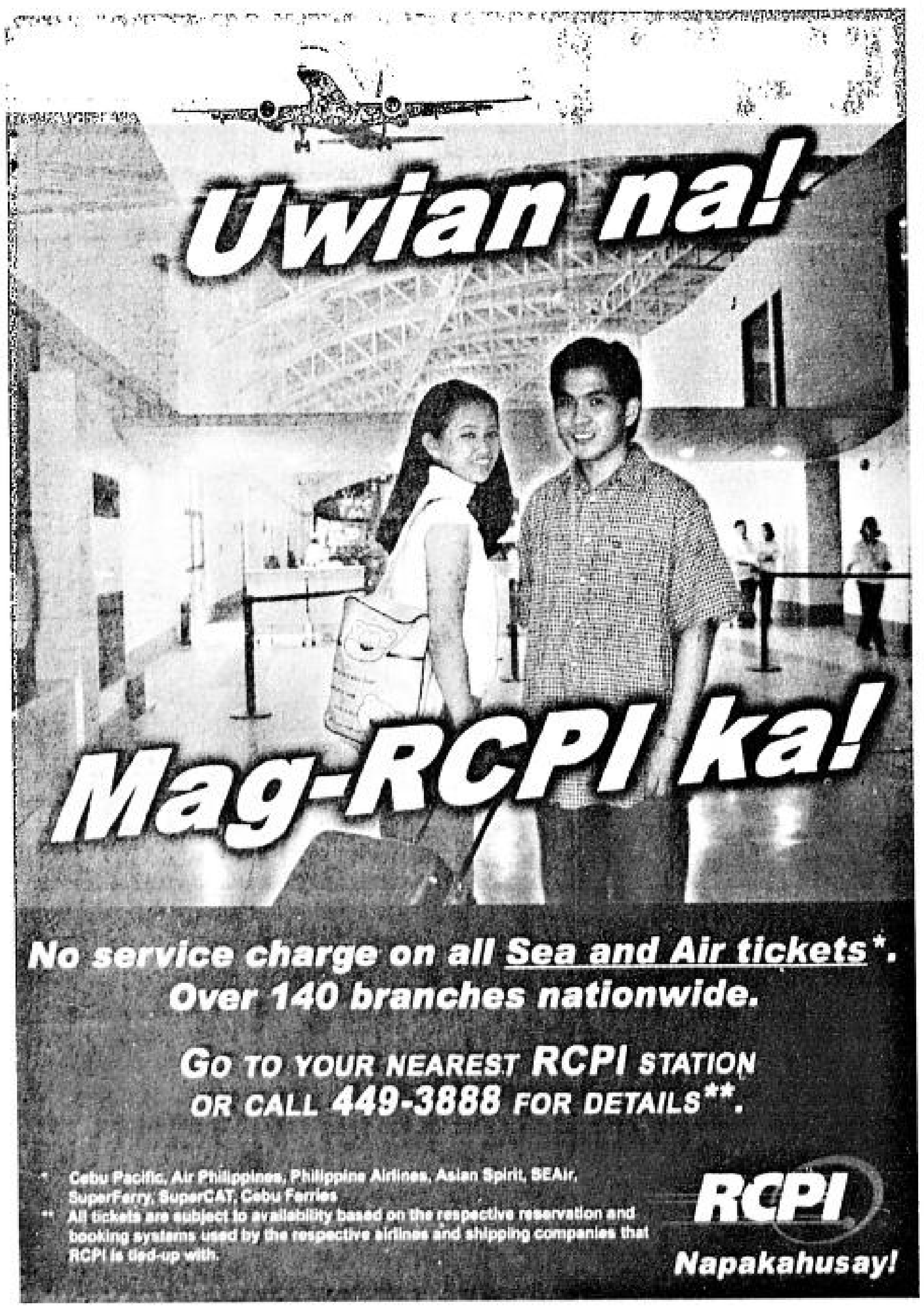
FREE Yourself from BAD BREATH
Bad breath is a social problem that needs immediate solution. And this is where we come in. Our clinic offers an effective, safe and permanent solution to bad breath, using a unique bacteria locator called Halimeter. It detects the root cause of the problem, so then we can apply our patented medication that will ensure you're bad breath free .. for life! Succeeding treatments are FREE!
Also Available: Teeth Bleaching Dental Clinic For Sale Or Lease
Suite #224 Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. Nos. 811-4071 • 752-4735

tp "the practice"
VISA ASSISTANCE
Servicing the Filipino Communities and the Asian Region since 1980
(Legal, Dependable & Affordable!!!)
Vis-à-Vis
99.9% APPROVAL RATE (ASSISTED BY INT'L IMMIGRANT LAWYERS)
- USA/UK/CANADA
- AUSTRALIA/NZ
- SCHENGEN TERRITORY
and other countries...
Our Specialties:
- Rejected Visitors/Student Visas Fiancée / Spousal (K&V Visas)
- Denied Immigrant Visas / Returning Resident Permits
- Death of Petitioner before approval of Beneficiaries Visa
- Adoption of relatives before your visa is approved
- Turning 21 before approval of Visa
- Fraud / Misrepresentation and complicated cases
- Airport to Airport refusal
- Administrative review of Immigrant Visas
- Representing for new and pending cases guaranteed...
Exclusively On your side
LET US DO IT RIGHT FOR YOU THE FIRST TIME BECAUSE WE CARE TO PROVIDE SERVICE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

MAIN OFFICE:
Gedisco Terrace, Ermita 1000
1148 Roxas Blvd., Manila
Tel. Nos.: (632) 523-9498/ 302-2596/302-2608/302-2614
Fax No. (02) 523-9761
E-mail: thepractice@eastern.com.ph

OUR BRANCH OFFICES:
DAU: Suite 203 Angelique Square Commercial Bldg., Mac Arthur Highway, Dau, Mabalacat 2010, Pampanga Tels.: (045) 892-5508/892-3120/331-2260
BAGUIO: Room 217 GP Shopping Arcade, Upper Mabini St., Baguio City 2600 Tels.: (074) 446-5917 / 446-5918
MUNTINLUPA: Rm. 3, 2nd Floor, DLA 1 Building, National Road, Putatan, Muntinlupa City 1770 Tels.: 862-2055 / 862-2076
LUCENA: Suite 301, 3rd Floor, General Reality Corporation Bldg., Quezon Ave. cor. Rizal St. (at KFC) Lucena City Tels.: (042) 710-2569/710-2585/660-6097
BULACAN: 3D, 3/F Maryville Square, McArthur Highway, Saluysoy, Meycauayan 3020 Bulacan Tels.: (044) 935-2538 / 840-3693
SANTIAGO CITY, ISABELA: Heritage Commercial Complex, 3/F, Maharlika Hiway, Brgy. Malvar, Pag-asa St., Santiago City, Isabela 3311 Tels.: (078) 682-6642 / 682-6922

All we do is all for you to serve your visa Approval... New Branch Offices coming soon in:
Legaspi City • Olongapo • Cebu City • Iloilo City • Tacloban City
General Santos City • Zamboanga City • Cagayan De Oro City
WE ARE STANDING BY 7 DAYS A WEEK NON-STOP, ROUND-THE-CLOCK FOR YOUR VISA NEEDS
WE ARE NOT A RECRUITMENT OR PLACEMENT AGENCY


Uwian na!
Mag-RCPI ka!
RCPI
Napakahusay!

No service charge on all Sea and Air tickets*.
Over 140 branches nationwide.
GO TO YOUR NEAREST RCPI STATION OR CALL 449-3888 FOR DETAILS**.
* Cebu Pacific, Air Philippines, Philippine Airlines, Asian Spirit, SEAir, SuperFerry, SuperCAT, Cebu Ferries
** All tickets are subject to availability based on the respective reservation and booking systems used by the respective airlines and shipping companies that RCPI is tied-up with.

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
Changes for the Better
WATER PUMP
TECHNOLOGY... OVERHAULED.
EFFICIENCY
DURABILITY
COMPETENCE
MITSUBISHI
CAPTAIN TSUNAMI

MITSUBISHI Electric Home Water Pump offers absolutely superior and incomparable benefits with its perfectly exceptional key features:
- Higher power motor with low noise operation
- New automatic air charger system for greater competence
- Sophisticated thermal protection system
- Built with rust resistant parts
- Distinctive design for easy installation
TANKLESS TYPE CP-406N, 1HP Also available in 3/4 HP
AUTOMATIC TYPE WP-256 M2, 3/4HP Also available in 1/3 HP, 1/2 HP
Sales Service Spare Parts
For particulars, call: (02)244-6185, 2423401. Fax (02)2433967.
P.O. Box 2851 Manila. E-mail: lctieng@yahoo.com. Cel.: 0917-8439441

SuperFerry fire probe in final phase

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE 10-MEMBER Special Board of Marine Inquiry begins today its deliberation on the investigation into the SuperFerry 14 fire to determine the origin of the blaze and pinpoint if there were violations committed by the shipping company, a board member said yesterday.

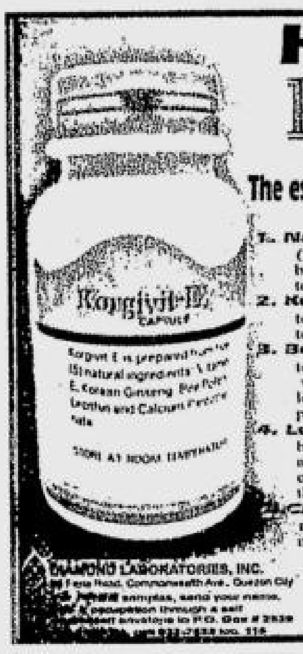
Lt. Commander Ramon Reblora of the Philippine Coast Guard yesterday said the SBMI will meet at 1 p.m. for the first of several closed-door sessions to assess the testimonies of the ship's crew, experts and passengers who have appeared before the board.

The board expects to come up with a draft report on Friday for review. The final report will be turned over Monday next week to Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, according to Reblora.

The SBMI, created by Mendoza after the SuperFerry 14 fire on Feb. 27, was tasked to determine the cause of the mysterious fire and violations committed in order to prevent similar incidents in the future.

One of the two witnesses who had testified before the board said he smelled gunpowder after the explosion, while another said it was like New Year after he heard a big bang, bolstering claims by the Abu Sayyaf that it had planted a passenger to bomb the ship.

At least 111 passengers remain missing, but authorities could not yet determine the exact number of fatalities in the ferry fire.



High on 5
Korgivit-E
A UNISEX VITAMIN
The essential supplement for your daily needs
★Each capsule contains:
1. Natural Vitamin E
(tocopheryl acid succinate)
boost the immune system, counteracts toxins, and restores the skin's youthful glow.
2. Korean Ginseng
to increase physical stamina and resistance to stress.
3. Bee Pollen
to rejuvenate the body by stimulating the vital organs and glands which brings about longer life span. It improves performance & provide energy.
4. Lecithin
binds with iron, iodine, and calcium to boost and improve the memory. It enables further elimination of fats and bad cholesterol from the body
5. Calcium Pantothenate
replenishes the supply of needed vitamins, minerals, and amino acids in the body.
Take Korgivit-E and be High on 5
DIAMOND LABORATORIES, INC.
Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City
[illegible] samples, send your name, [illegible] & occupation through a self [illegible] envelope to P.O. Box # 2539
[illegible]

An Invitation To A
PILGRIMAGE TO
NAJU,
SOUTH KOREA
6 Days
DEPARTURE: June 04, 2004
Fr. JERRY ORBOS, S.V.D.
Pilgrimage Chaplain
Executive Resources, Inc.
INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE COORDINATORS
Lower Lobby, Century Park Hotel, P. Ocampo Sr., Malate, Manila
Call Amie, Merle or Tess • Tel. Nos. 5238581, 5214156
FAX 5260126 • E-mail: pilgrimage@execres.com.ph
Website: www.executiveresources.com.ph
DOT-085-2002
IATA
PTAA

Mega Pacific: We don't owe gov't anything

By Martin P. Marfil

COMMISSION on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos yesterday downplayed fears the government would not be able to recover the P1.3 billion it had shelled out to Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc. in the aborted automated counting machines deal.

But the firm's lawyer Alfredo V. Lazaro Jr. said Mega Pacific does not owe the government anything despite a demand letter from the solicitor general.

In an interview with the ABS-CBN News Channel yesterday, Lazaro said the firm delivered all the machines to the government, that these were tested in harsh, cold and abnormal conditions and that whether the Comelec continues to use the machine is not the firm's fault.

Asked if he thinks Mega Pacific owes the government anything, Lazaro said: "No. We gave all the machines and all the machines are in the possession of the government up to this very day."

He branded as malicious allegations that Mega Pacific had abandoned its offices and could not now be found.

"The company exists and continues to operate from its offices at Ayala Tower One & Exchange Plaza on Ayala Avenue in Makati City and the East Tower, Tektite Building, Ortigas Center in Pasig City," Lazaro said.

According to Abalos, Mega Pacific had acknowledged receipt of a demand letter from the Office of the Solicitor General for the P1.3 billion the Comelec had paid to MPeI for 1,991 automated counting machines it cannot now use.

"On the contrary, Attorney Lazaro had written us and in that letter, he acknowledges receipt of the demand letter..," Abalos said.

Lazaro admitted receiving the solicitor general's letter and said he was preparing MPeI's reply.

"The problem is that since the government is not capable of restoring the machines to their virgin state, the demand for a refund is offline," he said.

"We are not at fault," he added. "We performed our end of the deal in good faith and delivered the machines based on Comelec specifications. Hence, we should not be made to suffer financially."

The P1.3-billion ACM deal was voided early this year by the Supreme Court, which ordered the government to get back the money it had paid to the firm.

Asked if the acknowledgment by Lazaro meant the collection period had started, Abalos said yes, but added that this was "another story."

RP sailors' US lawyer faces contempt raps

By Michael Lim Ubac

A NORWEGIAN cruise line has asked a US district court in Miami, Florida, to cite for criminal contempt an American lawyer representing the Filipino seamen who were killed or injured when a boiler exploded on the cruise liner in May last year.

Lawyer Curtis J. Mase, counsel for Star Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Line, Ltd. (NCL), filed sanctions against lawyer William Huggett for allegedly instructing his Filipino clients not to participate in the arbitration proceedings ordered by the Miami district court.

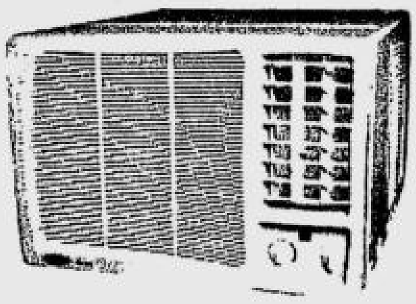
The proceedings had been initiated by NCL lawyers with the Philippines through the government's National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) in Metro Manila.

This move stemmed from a Dec. 19, 2003 order of the US court that claims filed in the US by the Filipino claimants should be arbitrated in the Philippines based on Philippine Overseas Employment Administration contracts signed by the crew members.

The May 2003 accident killed six Filipino seamen—third engineer Ricardo Rosal, assistant reefer engineer Mari John Bautista, oiler Rene Villanueva and stokers Ramon Villarais, Ramil Bernal and Candido Valenzuela Jr.

The six fatalities were among the seven crewmen who were killed when the boiler exploded while the Norway was docked in Miami. None of the ship's 2,500 passengers was injured. Most of the 18 crewmen injured were also Filipinos.

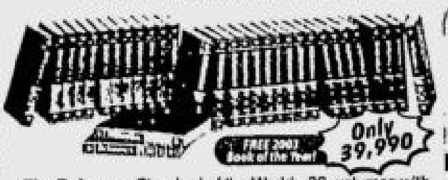
FENG*
The Gift of Wind.
*Chinese for wind, symbolizing the flow of positive energy.
Get a FREE stand fan worth P1,500 for every purchase of a 13,200 kj/h (1.5 HP), 19,500 kj/h (2HP), or 24,000 kj/h (2.5 HP) Carrier Window Room Air Conditioner. A token of gratitude for making Carrier the most preferred room air conditioner.
Promo period is from February 15 to March 31, 2004.

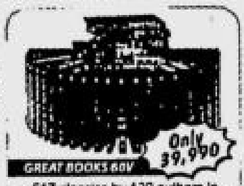


Carrier
No. 1 in air conditioning
CONCEPCION-CARRIER AIR CONDITIONING
8639555 CONCEPCION-CARRIER CUSTOMER CARE
FASTXT
0917-8435555
0918-9175555
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0331, SERIES OF 2004.

COMPANIONS FOR A LIFETIME from...BRITANNICA

Clearance sale!!! As low as P 1,666/mo. at ZERO interest!





• The Reference Standard of the World • 32 volumes with over 44 million words • 4,000 expert contributors from around the world • 24,283 illustrations, maps and photos.

517 classics by 130 authors in 60 volumes of unabridged works of Plato, Shakespeare, Freud & more.

Also Available: Compton's Encyclopedia 26v, My First Britannica 13v, MW Dictionary & more!

Ph: 687-1286, 637-6382 Mob: 0916-4110590 C/O Mr. Mon Dayrit
Exclusive Distributor: High Access Line - 10/f Cityland Shaw Tower, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City (beside Shangri-la Plaza Ortigas)

ROYAL TOURS

2004 CHINESE EXPORT COMMODITIES

(GUANGZHOU TRADE FAIR)
(4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS PACKAGE TOUR)

$538 4STAR HOTEL

PHASE 1
APRIL 16-19

PHASE 2
APRIL 25-28

Other services offered
INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC TOUR PACKAGES, Passport and Visa Assistance and PAL Domestic Ticketing Agent

Royal Vacation Holiday Travel &Tours
523 Remedios Street, Malate, Manila
Tels.: 524-9971 • 524-9987 • 521-6727 Fax: 521-3288

BEST OF EUROPE

May 13
$ 2,975

LOURDES, FATIMA, Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Italy, France, Portugal etc.

RUSSIA + SCANDINAVIA May 17 $ 3, 175
Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki- 2 Cruises, St. Petersburg, Moscow (many highlights)

CRUISES (chosen cabins)

Mediterranean	May 22	$ 1,784
Alaska	May 8	$ 1,545
Hongkong, China, Vietnam		$ 458
Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand		$ 635

HOLYWEEK IN HOLY LAND + EGYPT, JORDAN & DUBAI

April 1-13

US TOURS (land only)

9 days WEST COAST	$ 655
7 days EAST COAST	$ 455
8 days EAST COAST + CANADA	$ 550

Shanghai $ 428
Beijing $ 438

AUSTRALIA $ 648

Visita Iglesia
Tagaytay/Batangas
Holy Thurs.
Bulacan/Pampanga
Holy Wed.
Boracay, Baguio.
Palawan, Bohol

HOLY LAND PROMO
$ 1,488 only
Apr. 25 8 full days
VIA HONGKONG

HOLYWEEK DEPARTURES
• Hong Kong • Bangkok
• Singapore

SPAIN, FATIMA & MOROCCO +
May 22 $ 2, 888

South America from $ 3, 048

Liberal Terms to Promoters

Adam's EXPRESS TRAVEL
Pioneer in Pilgrimages

1131 Mabini, Manila • Tels.: 521-1651 / 38 / 98 • 536-1737 • 522-3876 - 77 • Fax: 521-2255

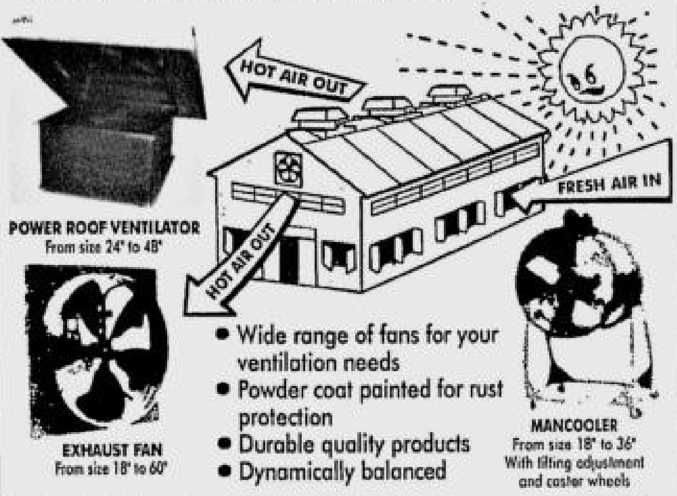
From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper: INQUIRER

JOBMarket ONLINE

VISIT US AT **www.jobmarketonline.com**

BEAT THE HEAT

BOOST YOUR WORKERS' PRODUCTIVITY WITH NIAGARA FANS!



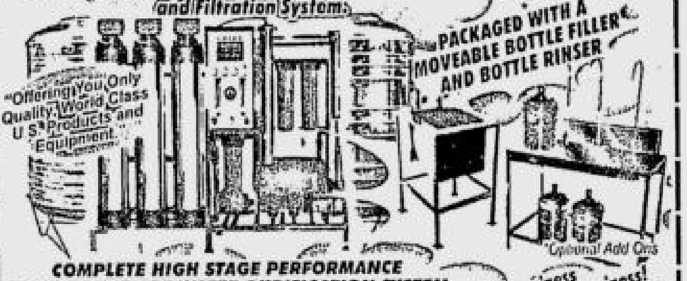
- Wide range of fans for your ventilation needs
- Powder coat painted for rust protection
- Durable quality products
- Dynamically balanced

56 12th Ave. Extension, Kalookan City
Tels. 366-5560 to 62 • 363-3995
363-7111 • 363-7177
Fax: 362-4257

"Moving Air Without Limit"
NIAGARA
Industrial Equipment Corporation

START SOMETHING BIG!

START BIG! With Most Profitable Business of All Time! And END UP BIG! Get it from the Only Company that never seize to provide you with the Best in Water Purification and Filtration System.


"Offering You Only Quality World Class U.S. Products and Equipment."
PACKAGED WITH A MOVEABLE BOTTLE FILLER AND BOTTLE RINSER
Optional Add Ons

COMPLETE HIGH STAGE PERFORMANCE STATE-OF-THE-ART WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM

Choose from 1000, 2000, 3000 or 6000 Gallons Capacity •Free Materials & Accessories •Free Installation & Site Design • Free Technical Training Product Support & Services• Three(3) Years Maintenance, Etc.

Water Business is Still the Best Business! GET THE MOST IDEAL WATER STATION PACKAGE

WE OFFER
LOW DOWNPAYMENT•IN-HOUSE FINANCING

CALL NOW!
WE'RE OPEN THIS SUNDAY

WATER RESOURCES INT'L.(WRI) PHILS., INC.
121 Kamuning Rd., Q.C.

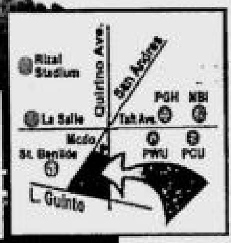
For Inquiries (02) 926-5776
CALL: (02) 926-5790
(0926) 281-7635 (TARLAC)
(088) 858-8834 (CAGAYAN DE ORO)
Or E-Mail us at wriphilinc@yahoo.com

VELLAGIO TOWER

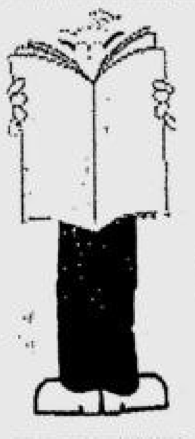
For Elegance
Comfort and
Convenient
Living

READY FOR OCCUPANCY NO DP for as low as P1.7M

TRAVEL DISTANCE	(Km.)		
Manila City Hall	2.4	Phil. Women's University	0.5
Sta. Isabel College	1.8	Manila Zoo	0.8
Luneta Park	1.8	De La Salle University	0.7
Mla. Doctors Hospital	1.6	St. Scholastica's College	0.8
Robinson's Place	1.1	Rizal Memorial	1.0
UP Manila	1.1	Cultural Center of the Phils.	2.0
Phil. General Hospital	1.0	Folk Arts Theater	2.5
Remedios Circle	0.7	PICC	2.6
Phil. Christian University	0.6	Phil Trade	2.8



WAJ REALTY DEVELOPMENT, INC.
2011 Leon Guinto St., Malate, Manila
Tel. No. 522-0278/536-9523/525-1787/400-8407 Fax No. 525-1787



Where you find the best.

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB Market

JOBMarket ONLINE

DLI GENERICS

SINCE 1988

Quality na gamot, sa presyong mas abot!!!

Suggested Retail Price January 8, 2004 • Makatitipid ng higit sa 80%

Analgesic/Antipyretic (Para sa kirot, lagnat o trangkaso)		DLI	Leading Brand	Savings
Mefenamic Acid susp. 50 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	24.00	104.00	80.00/bot
Mefenamic Acid tab. 500 mg	✓	1.70	20.85	19.15/tab
Paracetamol syrup 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	21.70	63.50	41.80/bot
Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓	0.60	2.45	1.85/tab
Anti-biotic (Kontra-Bakterya)				
Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	✓	2.60	8.95	6.35/cap
Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	3.70	15.75	12.05/cap
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	45.10	144.00	98.90/bot
Ampicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	6.50	14.15	7.65/cap
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓	3.20	37.75	34.55/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	40.40	394.75	354.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓	2.30	26.00	23.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓	2.10	14.80	12.70/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓	25.40	115.75	90.35/bot
Anti-cough (Para sa Ubo)				
Bromhexine HCL syrup 4 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	25.40	74.75	49.35/bot
Carbocisteine cap. 500 mg	✓	2.10	12.25	10.15/cap
Carbocisteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	24.00	87.25	63.25/bot
Anti-diarrhea (Para sa Pagtatae)				
Loperamide cap. 2mg	✓	1.10	10.25	9.15/cap

Mabibili sa sumusunod at sa mga botikang abot-kaya ang halaga.

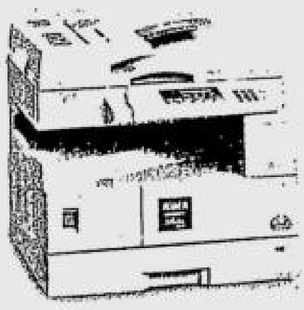
Huwag ipagpapalit sa iba! Hanapin ang tatak DLI.

Watsons • EMILENE'S PHARMACY • Carlos SuperDrug • Rose Pharmacy

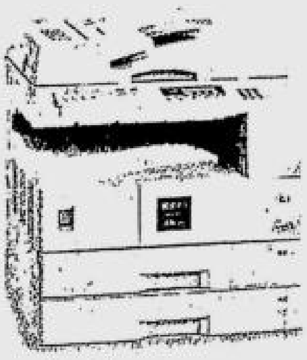
Tel #s: 711-3933, 712-4990, 743-1636 | Visit: www.DLI-Generics.com for complete product & price information

---

Aficio™ 1013 13 cpm
Copier-Printer-Fax-Network



Aficio™ 1113 13 cpm
Copier



Aficio™ 1018 18 cpm
Copier-Printer-Fax-Network

COST SAVINGS CHART

MODEL	Ave. Cost per Page	Ave. Monthly Prints	Total Cost/ Month	SAVINGS
Other Brand	2.00	5,000	10,000.00	
RICOH	.50	5,000	2,500.00	7,500.00

SUPPOSE

we increase your productivity AND cut your printing costs?

Sure, we pioneered digital copiers. And yes, we're the fastest growing maker of multi-function printers in key markets. But what keeps our customers coming back in more than 120 countries is our uncompromising dedication to individual needs. Talk to us.

Aficio™

RICOH (Philippines), Incorporated
Karrivin Plaza
2316 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 1200
Tels. 893-5372 & 817-6718 Fax 813-1460 www.ricoh.com.ph

For Dealer Sales and Service Inquiries:
*Tuguegarao (078) 844-2246*Isabela (078) 682-8042*Baguio (074) 443-4576*[illegible] (045) 887-4027*Olongapo (047) 222-7602*[illegible]46*Tacloban (053) 523-8188* Iloilo (033) 33[illegible] (034) 434-2380*Cebu (032) 255-3990*CDO (088) 8[illegible]74*Davao (082) 227-3476* GenSan (083) 552-8317*Manila 733-8481*749-8155*

How well do you share?

RICOH
Image Communication

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION FAIR

idp

Participating Institutions

THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA • Curtin • The UNIVERSITY of NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA • HOLMESGLEN INSTITUTE • FLINDERS UNIVERSITY ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA

CEBU
Friday, 26 March
Marriott Hotel
Cardinal Rosales Avenue
Cebu City 6000

Seminar
9AM - 10 AM
Ballroom 2

Exhibition
10AM - 4PM
Ballroom 3

MANILA
Saturday, 27 March
Intercontinental Hotel
No.1 Ayala Avenue
1226 Makati City

Seminar
2PM - 3PM
Le Boulevardier Room

Exhibition
3PM - 7PM
Bel Air & North Forbes Room

MANILA
Sunday, 28 March

[illegible]tion
[illegible] 6PM
[illegible] Air & North Forbes Rooms

For more information, please contact:

IDP Education Australia
2/F Pioneer House Makati
108 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City

Tel: 02 816 0755
(local 109/110)
Fax: 02 815 9875
Email: info@manila.idp.com

Please bring [illegible]
and/or [illegible]

Admission is FREE.

www.idp.com
YOUR FIRST CHOICE GLOBAL PARTNER IN EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

WANTED: PRESIDENT

Roco gets 'job interview'

By TJ Burgonio

IT WAS the easiest job interview he had gone through, but employment is not a sure thing.

Raul Roco yesterday breezed through the "job interview" for presidential candidates conducted by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), but the standard bearer of the Alyansa ng Pag-asa was not happy.

Emerging from the one-and-a-half-hour grilling at the PMAP offices in Mandaluyong City, Roco had one complaint: "It's an unusual job interview because the interviewers can't give you the job."

"From the very beginning, I told them (organizers) 'you can't give the job. You're just one of the 1,000 that will create the possibility of a mandate for the president,'" Roco said.

Even so, he said he didn't see the interview as an exercise in futility, but an "exercise to inform their [PMAP] members."

Roco, who arrived promptly for the 10 a.m. interview in a light blue barong Tagalog and white pants, said he agreed to the interview "out of respect" for the 1,000-strong PMAP and its affiliates.

The PMAP had asked each presidential candidate to undergo an interview, the results of which would be evaluated and disseminated to its members.

"There was nothing particularly difficult," Roco said of the questions he was asked. "I doubt if there are many problems I had not met before either as a lawyer, congressman or senator."

PMAP president Oscar Contreras showed just how seriously the organization was taking the job interviews.

To President Macapagal-Arroyo and Fernando Poe Jr., who both declined to be interviewed, he issued this warning: "We can't take your resumés at face value."

"For the candidates who refuse to go through the job interviews, we will have a caveat [on their profiles]—that what is said may or may not be true since we were unable to interview them," Contreras said.

Apart from Roco, Eddie Gil, who has since been disqualified, evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva and Sen. Panfilo Lacson had undergone the interview.

Each was asked the following questions: How would you navigate between conflicting interests? How would you captivate and motivate the people? How would you mobilize scant resources? How would you guard the national wealth? How would you be a servant-leader?

The interviews, which were videotaped, will be validated by 12 members of the youth, urban poor, Church and academe sectors.

The final report will be presented at a press conference on April 5 and will be disseminated to the 1,000 PMAP members around the country.

But the PMAP would not endorse any candidate, Contreras stressed.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, March 24, 2004
4th Week of Lent

1st Reading: Is 49:8-15
Gospel: Jn 5:17-30

Jesus said to the Jews, "My Father goes on working and so do I." And the Jews tried all the harder to kill him, for Jesus not only broke the Sabbath observance, but also made himself equal with God, calling him his own Father.

Jesus said to them, "Truly, I assure you, the Son cannot do anything by himself, but only what he sees the Father do. And whatever he does, the Son also does. The Father loves the Son and shows him everything he does; and he will show him even greater things than these, so that you will be amazed.

"As the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son gives life to whom he wills. In the same way the Father judges no one, for he has entrusted all judgment to the Son, and he wants all to honor the Son as they honor the Father. Whoever ignores the Son, ignores as well the Father who sent him.

"Truly, I say to you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; and there is no judgment for him because he has passed from death to life. Truly, the hour is coming and has indeed come, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and, on hearing it, will live. For the Father has life in himself and he has given to the Son also to have life in himself. And he has empowered him as well to carry out Judgment, for he is a son of man.

"Do not be surprised at this: the hour is coming when all those lying in tombs will hear my voice and come out; those who have done good shall rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

"I can do nothing of myself, and I need to hear Another One to judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will, but the will of him who sent me."

Commentary

In his "Meditation on the Holy Trinity Icon of Roublev," the Russian theologian Paul Evdokimov wrote:

"They are sitting all together at the same table, drinking from the same cup. They share the same meal.

A meal: this quite ordinary daily family reality, at which the father gives the fruit of his work and toil to his children, day after day, to make them live more fully and grow up, and become as it were others who are himself.

'As the Son lives by the Father, he who eats me will live by me.'

The three Persons are united by the possession of a secret. This secret is their relationship, their love. The how and why of this love will never be deciphered, never wholly uncovered. It is an incommunicable secret and fullness, which they communicate. What the three Persons give and communicate to one another is the depth of their being. This sharing makes a communion that no human sharing can achieve. This gift is the sharing of what each one has that is beautiful, true and luminous.

Gazing at the three faces raises the question, 'Who are they? What are they saying?'

And we, in our silence, can perceive something of this secret."

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

We Supply HARD-TO-FIND Foods !!!

1. Potato Balls
2. Asstd HK Dimsum
3. Buchi Red/Uve
4. Fun-Shaped Chicken Nuggets
5. Chicken Balls
6. Stuffed Shrimps
7. Quikiam Balls
8. 5-in-1 Balls
9. Beef Footlong
10. Nachos & Display Warmers
11. French Fries

Pls. call MOSES 734-9088/734-9114

R&A

IMMIGRATION SOLUTIONS BY REEVES & ASSOCIATES

24 Years Of Excellent Service To The Business & Immigrant Communities

- R&A represents hundreds of Hospitals in California and throughout the U.S. that have immediate RN & PT openings
- Devoted exclusively to the practice of immigration & nationality law
- Successfully immigrated more than 16,000 Filipino families
- Telephone or Tele-video conference with an immigration expert
- Case Information System allowing clients on-line access to their files 24 hours a day
- R&A is the firm that other attorneys send their clients when their cases are too difficult or complicated
- R&A is one of the largest, oldest and most trusted immigration firms in the United States

ROBERT L. REEVES
Attorney & Board Certified Specialist
Immigration & Nationality Law (USA)

Call (02) 759-6777

YOU DESERVE TO BE REPRESENTED BY THE VERY BEST

● PASADENA ● SAN FRANCISCO ● BEIJING ● MANILA ●

www.rreeves.com e-mail: rrphil@rreeves.com

SAMSUNG
WHEN THE NIGHT CALLS, ANSWER.
SAMSUNG X600 WITH INTEGRATED FLASH.
DigitAll*flash* SAMSUNG X600
SAMSUNG DIGITall
everyone's invited

• Flash VGA Camera • 180° Rotating Lens • Multi-Shot Function
• 65536 Color Vivid Screen

Distributed by First Asia Mobile, Inc. Tel. (632) 687-5290

www.samsungelectronics.ph

Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation Ground Floor, Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 722-7777 Loc. 254 • Fax No. 721-6323 • For Customer Care Centre, dial 1-800-10SAMSUNG

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

World leaders condemn killing of Hamas founder

BRUSSELS—World leaders warned Israel on Monday its assassination of Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin may have buried the Middle East peace process as the United States said it was troubled by the killing, but declined to condemn its ally.

Governments around the world urged both sides to show restraint, fearful the killing would ignite a new spiral of violence in the region.

Amid fury in the Palestinian territories, which drew thousands onto the streets, Arab countries led initial outrage at the killing of the blind, wheelchair-bound, 67-year-old sheikh in Gaza City by an Israeli attack helicopter at dawn Monday.

European Union and Asian leaders warned the attack could herald a dangerous new phase in the festering conflict, unresolved since the creation of Israel in 1948.

The 15-nation EU, the biggest contributor of international aid to the Palestinian Authority, has long urged restraint from both sides in the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

French President Jacques Chirac said the EU unreservedly condemned "all acts of violence, especially when they are acts contrary to international law."

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Israel had the right to defend itself against terrorism. "But it is not entitled (to go) for this kind of unlawful killing and we therefore condemn it," he said.

"We are very concerned," added German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer. "Along with the EU we have always rejected these killings and described them as unacceptable."

White House national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said Washington did not have advance warning of the attack and repeated previous US calls for calm, while the US state department said it was "deeply troubled" by Yassin's killing.

"It is very important that everyone step back and try now to be calm in the region," Rice said.

State department spokesperson Richard Boucher said Israel had the right to defend itself, adding: "We do think this event increases tension and it doesn't help efforts to resume progress toward peace."

Russia said it was deeply worried Yassin's assassination could fuel new violence. "(This) could sabotage efforts to restart negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis," foreign ministry spokesperson Alexander Yakovenko said.

Moscow urged both sides to renew their commitment to the implementation of the "roadmap" for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In New York, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Yassin's killing was illegal and an obstacle to peace.

"I do condemn the targeted assassination of Sheikh Yassin and the others who died with him," Annan said.

In Ottawa, Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham warned the peace process could be set back. *AFP*

Hardliner emerges as Hamas strongman in Gaza

GAZA CITY—Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a hardliner who opposes even a temporary truce with Israel, is emerging as a Hamas strongman in the Palestinian areas after the assassination of the group's founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

However, Rantisi, a 54-year-old pediatrician, is not expected to replace Yassin or take over the group. Since its creation in 1987, Hamas has been run largely as a collective of senior activists in Gaza and the Arab world, with Yassin in a key role as ideologue, spiritual leader and strategist.

Hamas leaders said that while the killing of Yassin is a blow to morale, it would not hamper the group's operations, including its ability to carry out attacks.

"Hamas will continue in the same way Sheik Yassin taught us. Hamas has its infrastructure, its institutions," Ismail Hanieh, a top Yassin aide, said as Hamas leaders formed a reception line at a Gaza City soccer stadium Monday night to greet thousands of mourners.

Hamas is secretive about its organization, though the broad outlines are known.

General policy is set by the political bureau, headed by Khaled Mashaal, who is based in Damascus, Syria. Other members of the bureau include several Hamas leaders in the Arab world, as well as Rantisi, Hanieh and Mahmoud Zahar in Gaza.

The Hamas military wing, Izzedine al Qassam, plans and carries out attacks on Israelis. It is headed by two shadowy figures, Mohammed Deif and Adnan al-Ghoul, who top Israel's wanted list and have been operating from hiding for years.

It remains unclear how much autonomy the military wing has in deciding on the timing and target of attacks, and to what extent it is directed by the political bureau. *AP*

Are you migrating, have plans of migrating or working in

NEW ZEALAND?

Did you finish a business course in any of the following schools*?

- Ateneo de Manila University
- University of the Philippines
- Assumption College
- University of the East
- [illegible] College
- [illegible]'s College
- San Beda College
- Dela Salle University
- University of Santo Tomas
- College of the Holy Spirit
- Far Eastern University
- Philippine School of Business Administration
- St. Scholastica's College
- Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila

*These are some of the schools New Zealand recognizes.

Do you want to earn a New Zealand Government Ministry registered, accredited and approved certificate course here in the Philippines?

If all your answers were YES, then The Gilligan Business School International, a reputable school in New Zealand would like to invite you to attend a seminar that will give you an overview about:

1. Skilled Migrant Category Policies.
2. a New Zealand Business Course Certificate that can be earned in the Philippines; and
3. International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Where : CARLOS P. ROMULO AUDITORIUM
Podium 4, RCBC Plaza,
Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
When : March 27, 2004 • 10 am - 12 nn
Seminar Fee : P 500 (snack and hand-outs will be provided)

For registration and more information, you may call or visit us at:

N.Z. Skills Training Services
Unit 2606 Antel Global Corporate Center
No. 3 Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, M.M.
Telephone Nos. 687-6776 & 687-2463
Cellphone No.: 0910-4004077
Email Address: daves@pacific.net.ph
Website: www.gilligan.co.nz

Armed Forces and Police
Savings & Loan Association, Inc.
(AFPSLAI)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY MADE that the **Armed Forces and Police Savings & Loan Association, Inc. (AFPSLAI)** will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on April 24, 2004, Saturday at 8:00 a.m. at the Bulwagang Hen Arturo T Enrile (AFP Museum and Multi-Purpose Theater), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City to elect the members of the Board of Trustees for the year 2004 and to transact other business.

(SGD.) ATTY. SAMUEL B. PADILLA
Corporate Secretary

Top Shiite cleric warns UN against Iraq's breakup

BAGHDAD—Iraq's most influential Shiite Muslim cleric said that the United Nations must not endorse Iraq's interim constitution, signed earlier this month, because it could lead to the country's breakup, according to a statement released Monday.

The letter was sent March 19 by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani's office to top UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi. It said al-Sistani will not meet a UN team expected soon in Iraq "unless the United Nations takes a clear stance that the constitution does not bind the National Assembly and is not mentioned in any new Security Council resolution concerning Iraq."

The National Assembly is to be elected before the end of January.

On March 8, the US-picked Iraqi Governing Council signed the temporary constitution, a key step in the handover of power from the US-led coalition to Iraqis on June 30.

The charter enshrines Islam as one of the bases of law and outlines the shape of a parliament and a three-member presidency, as well as a federal structure for the country. Billed as the most liberal in the Arab world, it will remain in effect until the permanent constitution is approved in late 2005.

Al-Sistani issued a fatwa, or religious edict, after the signing that said the document would only gain legitimacy if it is endorsed by an elected National Assembly. *AP*

4 more suspects charged in Madrid train blasts

MADRID—A judge filed charges early Tuesday against four more suspects in the Madrid train bombings and ordered them held pending further investigation.

The judge charged three Moroccans and a Spaniard with terrorism and mass killings for their alleged participation in the bombings, which killed 202 people, wounded 1,800 and helped drive the ruling right-of-center government from power.

A fifth suspect, a Moroccan arrested with the others Thursday, was released without charges.

The charges came after six hours of questioning at the National Court, and bring to nine the number of people charged in the March 11 bombings. Six are Moroccan.

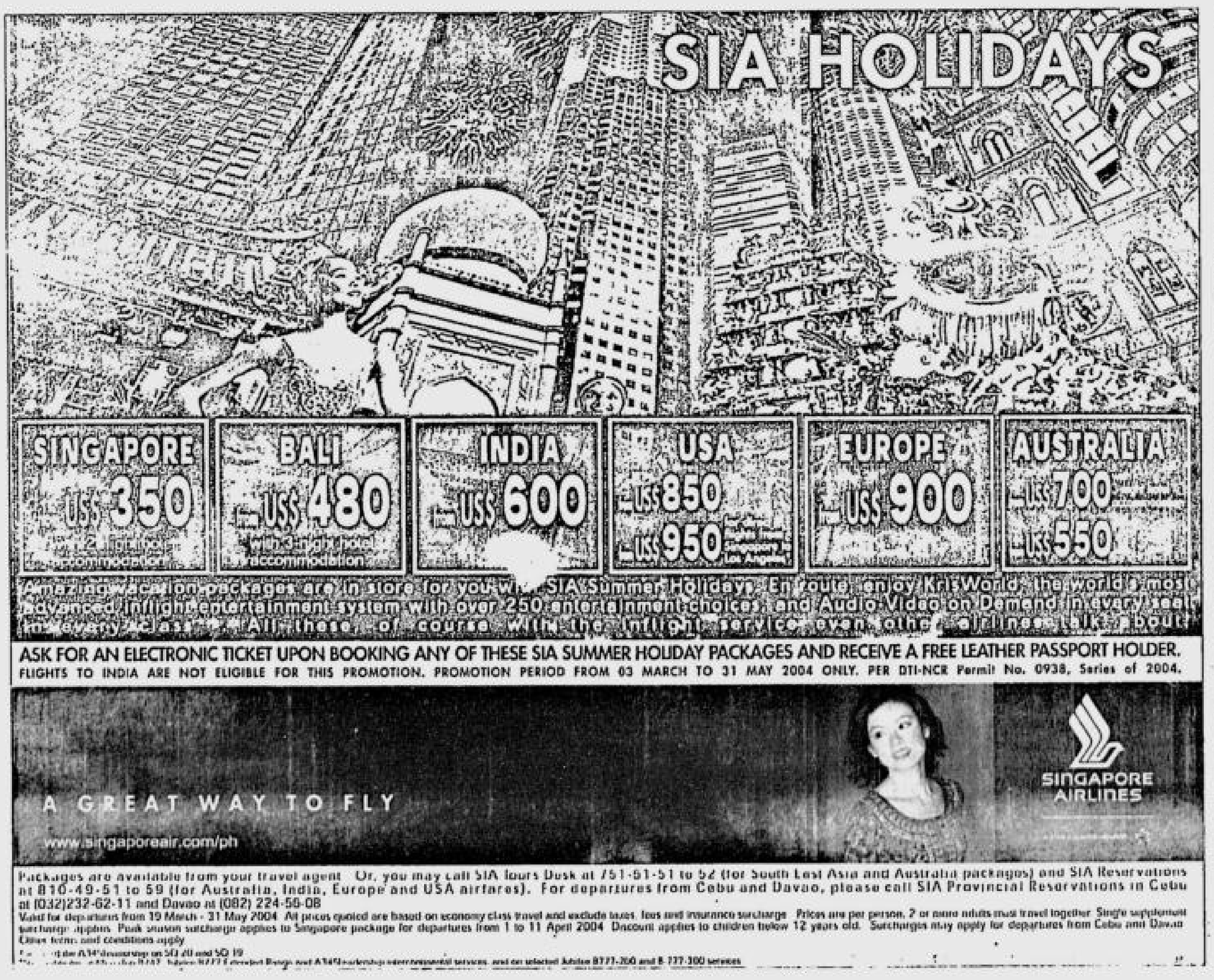
Suspicion over the 10 bombs targeting Madrid commuter trains has focused on an alleged Morocco-based terrorist cell believed to have links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and on al-Qaida itself.

All three Moroccans questioned into the early hours of Tuesday denied involvement in the Madrid attacks. One left the courtroom in tears. Another said that when he learned of the attacks the morning of March 11, he was at home watching cartoons with his children, court officials said.

The charges stop short of a formal indictment, but suggest the court has strong evidence against the suspects. They can remain in jail two years while investigators gather more evidence.

A total of 13 people are now in custody over the bombing. The latest four arrests came Monday in Madrid. Those four, believed to be of North African origin, have yet to appear before a judge.

Spaniard Jose Emilio Suarez, accused of providing explosives for the attacks, was charged with 190 counts of murder, 1,430 counts of attempted murder, robbery and collaborating or belonging to a terrorist organization. Court officials said the latter charge will be specified further as the probe continues. The figure of 190 cited by the judge is the number of bodies officially identified so far. *AP*



Amazing vacation packages are in store for you with SIA Summer Holidays. En route, enjoy KrisWorld, the world's most advanced inflight entertainment system with over 250 entertainment choices, and Audio Video on Demand in every seat in every class. All these, of course, with the inflight service even other airlines talk about.

ASK FOR AN ELECTRONIC TICKET UPON BOOKING ANY OF THESE SIA SUMMER HOLIDAY PACKAGES AND RECEIVE A FREE LEATHER PASSPORT HOLDER.
FLIGHTS TO INDIA ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROMOTION. PROMOTION PERIOD FROM 03 MARCH TO 31 MAY 2004 ONLY. PER DTI-NCR Permit No. 0938, Series of 2004.

Packages are available from your travel agent. Or, you may call SIA Tours Desk at 751-51-51 to 52 (for South East Asia and Australia packages) and SIA Reservations at 810-49-51 to 59 (for Australia, India, Europe and USA airfares). For departures from Cebu and Davao, please call SIA Provincial Reservations in Cebu at (032)232-62-11 and Davao at (082) 224-50-08
Valid for departures from 19 March - 31 May 2004. All prices quoted are based on economy class travel and exclude taxes, fees and insurance surcharge. Prices are per person, 2 or more adults must travel together. Single supplement surcharge applies. Peak season surcharge applies to Singapore package for departures from 1 to 11 April 2004. Discount applies to children below 12 years old. Surcharges may apply for departures from Cebu and Davao. Other terms and conditions apply.
[illegible] the A340 [illegible] on SQ 20 and SQ 19
[illegible] and on selected Airbus B777-200 and B-777-300 services

Taiwan's president agrees to a recount

By Joseph Kahn
and Keith Bradsher

TAIPEI—Looking weak and tired just days after he was shot, Taiwan's leader appeared in public Tuesday for the first time since his disputed reelection victory and he called for a vote recount that he promised to accept "100 percent."

As President Chen Shui-bian gave his televised address, the shouts and chants of thousands of protesters could be heard in the background. The crowd has been camping out in front of the Presidential Office since Saturday's tight vote, demanding a recount.

"I won't object to a full-scale recount to help us find out the truth," Chen said as he urged the protesters to go home and let the courts deal with the dispute.

Chen's challenger, Lien Chan, insists that the election was marred by numerous irregularities, though he has provided little evidence to prove this. Lien has also suggested that the mysterious shooting that lightly wounded Chen one day before the polls may have been staged to gain sympathy votes.

The president, who campaigned on a platform of standing up to rival China, won the vote with only 50.1 percent of the ballots, while challenger Lien, who pushed a more conciliatory approach toward mainland leaders, got 49.9 percent.

The election also involved Taiwan's first island-wide referendum: a vote that focused on China's military threat and possible peace talks with Beijing. The referendum, spearheaded by Chen, failed to pass because more than half the voters joined an opposition-led boycott of the vote.

On Tuesday, China's official Xinhua News Agency sided with the opposition and accused Chen of "political fraud" and trying to "kidnap the will of the Taiwanese people" with the referendum.

Although the two sides split amid civil war in 1949, Beijing insists that self-ruled Taiwan is a part of China that must be unified eventually. Chinese leaders suspected that Chen's referendum was just a warm-up for a vote on a permanent split.

In Taiwan, the referendum controversy quickly faded as Lien's campaign began challenging the election results.

Lien has demanded that the president order a recount and set up an independent task force—with both foreign and local experts—to investigate the shooting. Police have yet to identify suspects or other important leads. *AP*

Cobra kills world champion 'Snake Man'

BANGKOK—Thailand's Boonreung Buachan, holder of the Guinness Book of World Records title for spending the most time penned up with snakes, was killed by a cobra that bit him during his daily show, a hospital doctor said on Monday.

Boonreung, 34, and dubbed Snake Man, was rushed unconscious to Prai Bung Hospital near his home town, 350 miles northeast of Bangkok, Dr. Wipa Praituan said.

"He was brought here with no signs of life. He wasn't breathing and his heart didn't beat," she said.

Boonreung was listed by the "Guinness Book of World Records" in 1998 after living with snakes in a glass box for seven days.

An epileptic, he went into convulsions after being bitten, but no one took him to the hospital initially because they thought he was suffering an epileptic fit. *Reuters*

The Serendra supplement in Section F in today's issue is for information purposes only

The REAL
PRICE DROP!
No Strings Attached!

958 songs TAGALOG 3 Song Chip
Before: P4,500
NOW P3,495

880 songs TAGALOG 4 Song Chip
Before: P5,500
NOW P3,795

Now you can enjoy more songs for less!

Ask for the PREMIUM BOX!
NEW!
MAGIC SING PREMIUM
Available in Black & Silver models
WOW!
MAGIC SING

PREMIUM
Videoke Anytime, Anywhere!

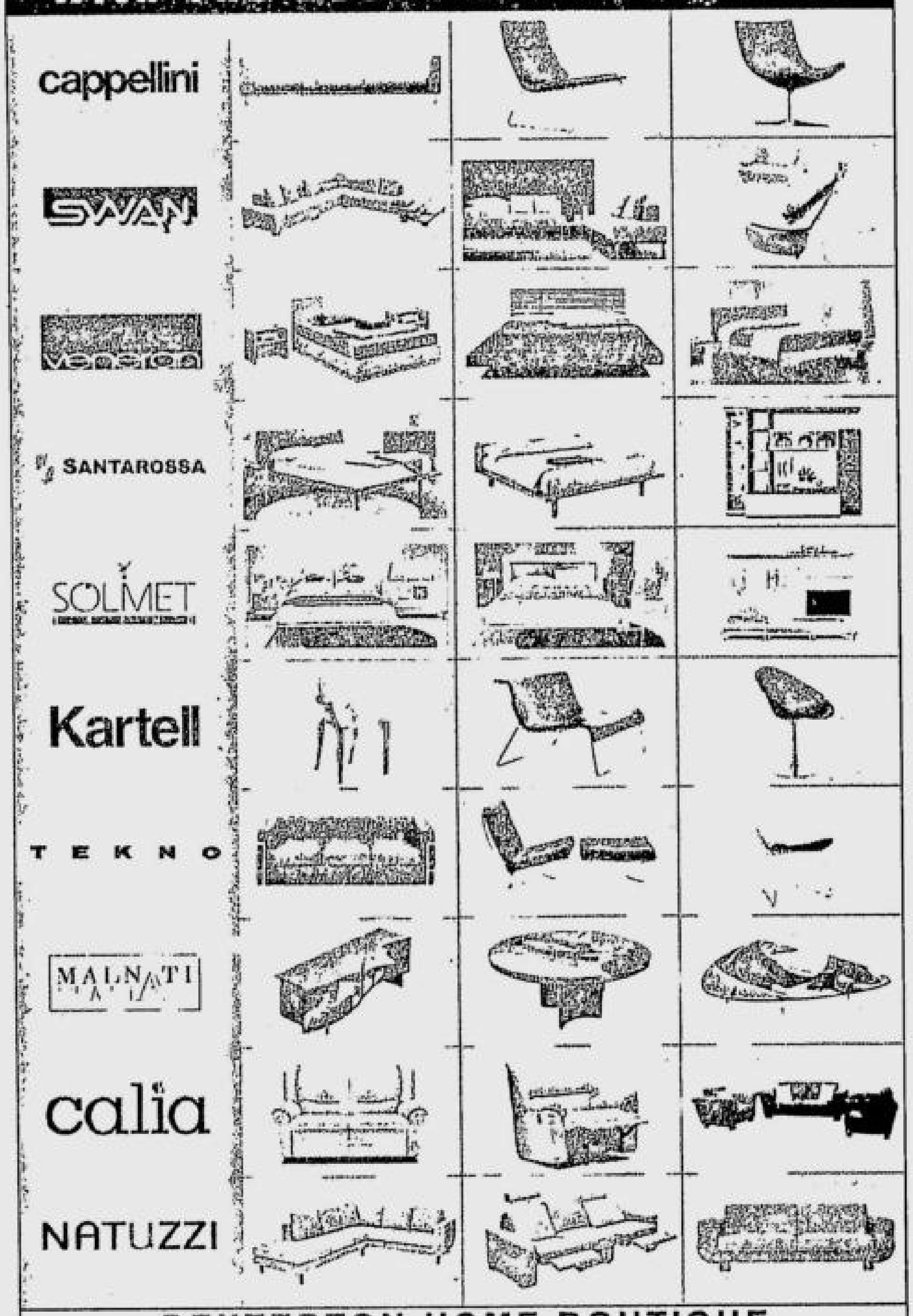
Magic Sing Premium Advantages:
- ☑ Tagalog 3 & 4 Song chips PRICE DROP!
- ☑ 49 WOWPHILIPPINES Scenic Backgrounds
- ☑ WIN & FLY RAFFLE PROMO*
- ☑ RECORD & PLAYBACK FUNCTION Up to 8 minutes

Proud to Promote Philippine Tourism
www.magicmic.com

AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE AT: ODYSSEY • AUTOMATIC CENTER • ASTROVISION • ABENSON WESTERN • ASTROPLUS • SOGO HOME & OFFICE CENTER • O MUSIC VIDEO • AVID AV SURFER

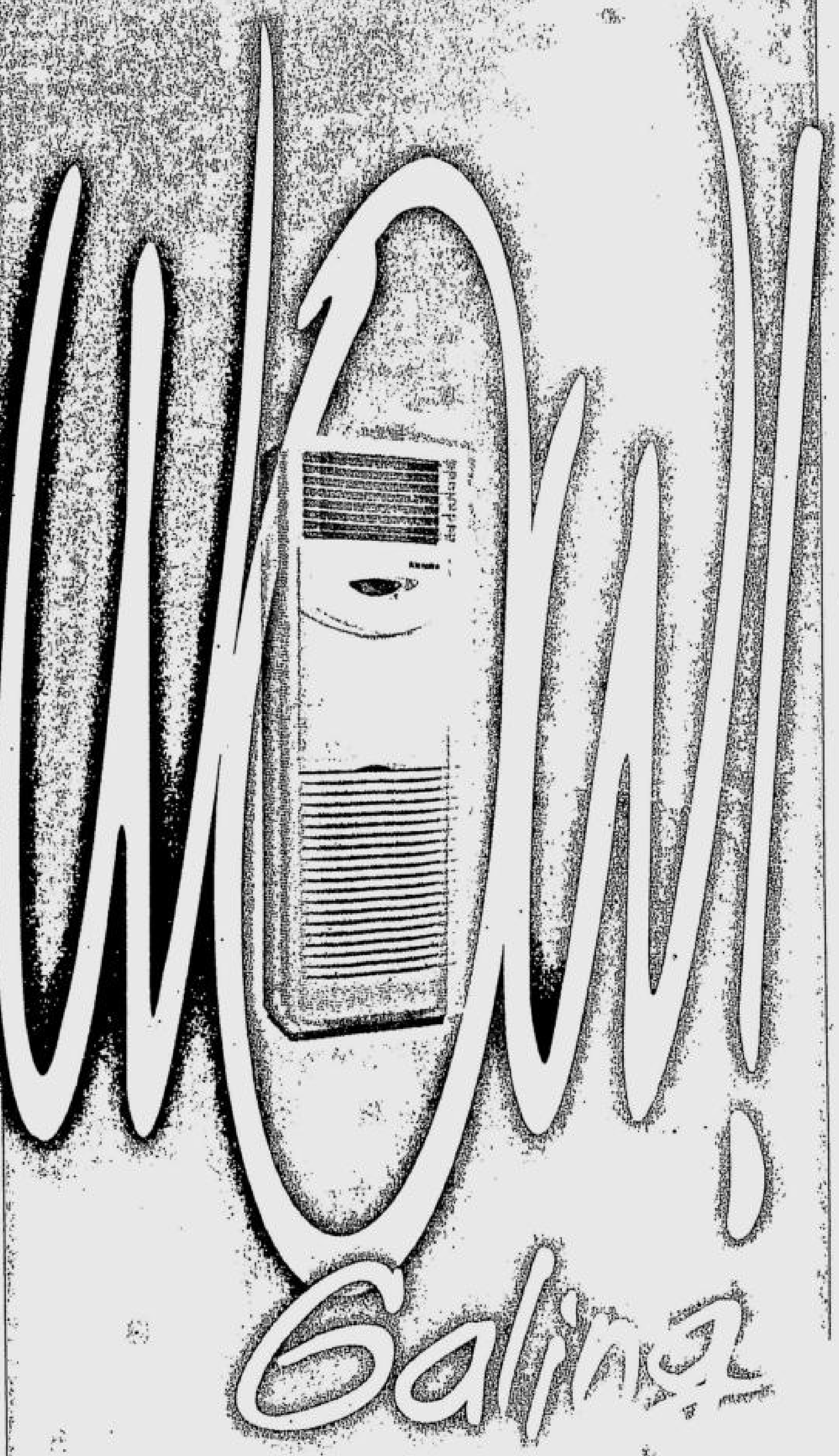
Manufactured by ET ENTERTECH Co. Ltd. (Korea)
* See Posters & Flyers for details Per DTI-NCR Permit #0328 Series of 2004

Redefine Modern Living
With The Best Italian Furniture



DEXTERTON HOME BOUTIQUE
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St., (Near Damar Village) Quezon City
Tel. 362-1111, 361-6006 Fax No. 362-0524
Email: dexterton@dexterton.com www.dexterton.com

Alenaire
Sleek & Slim
Total Beauty. Inside Out.



WOWPHILIPPINES

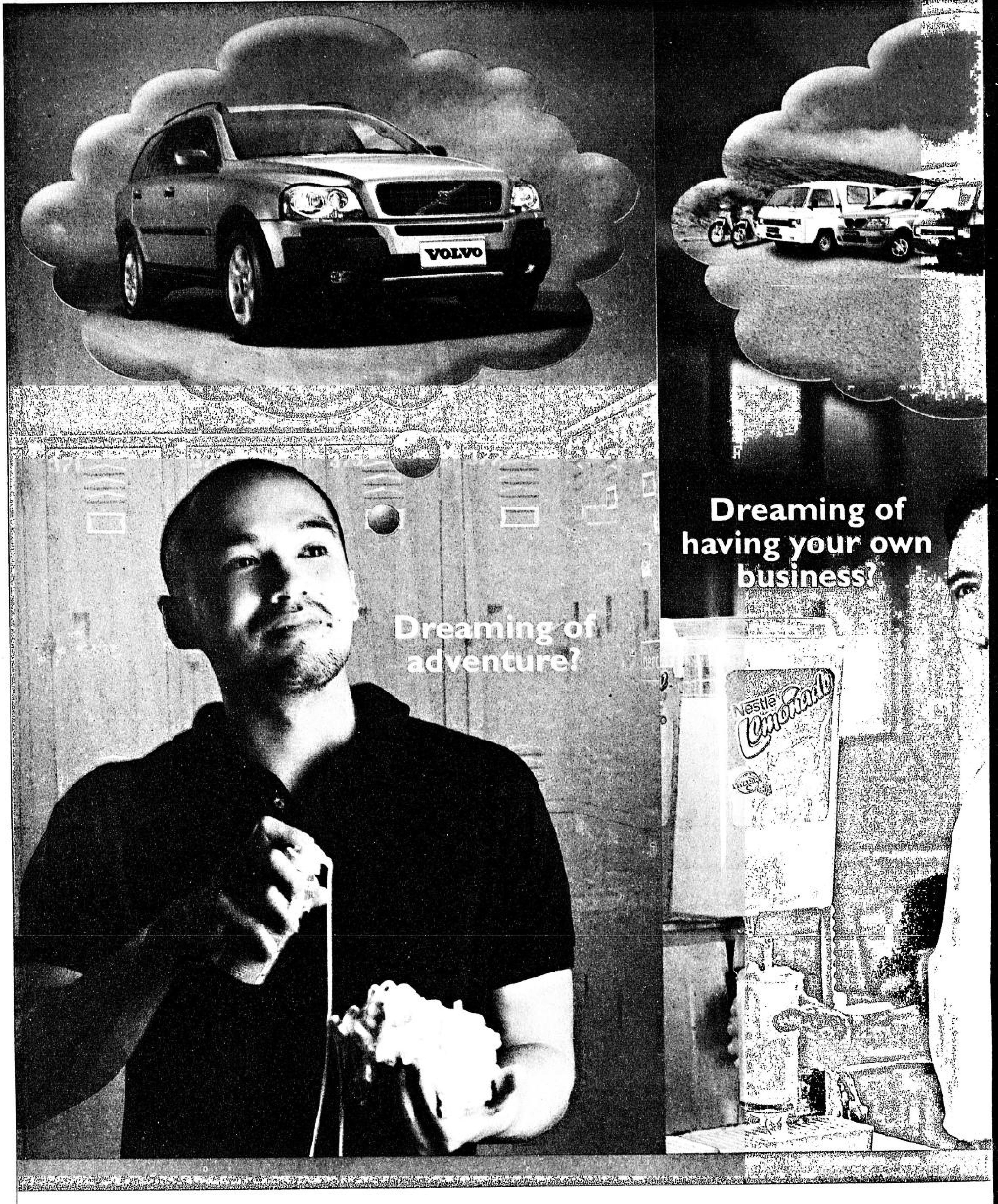
Filipino airconditioning wonder, Alenaire,
is the unanimous choice to cool the WOW Philippines
Pueblo Filipino Exhibit in Intramuros.
With its superb cooling performance, locals and tourists from all over
can marvel at the snippets of our beauteous country
in a completely relaxed and comfortable mood.

The same Pinoy ingenuity and expertise is at work in every unit
of Alenaire Sleek & Slim airconditioner. Once you spot a Sleek & Slim,
you know you've seen a real beauty. Be captivated by its latest
space-saving design and rust-proof front panel --
then fall in love with its improved airflow and virtual silence.

Wow! Alenaire. Proudly Filipino.

DAIKIN
DAIKIN-ALEN
AIR CONDITIONING, INC.

For inquiries call Tel. 415-2276 or 712-2144


VOLVO
Dreaming of adventure?
Dreaming of having your own business?
Nestle Lemonade

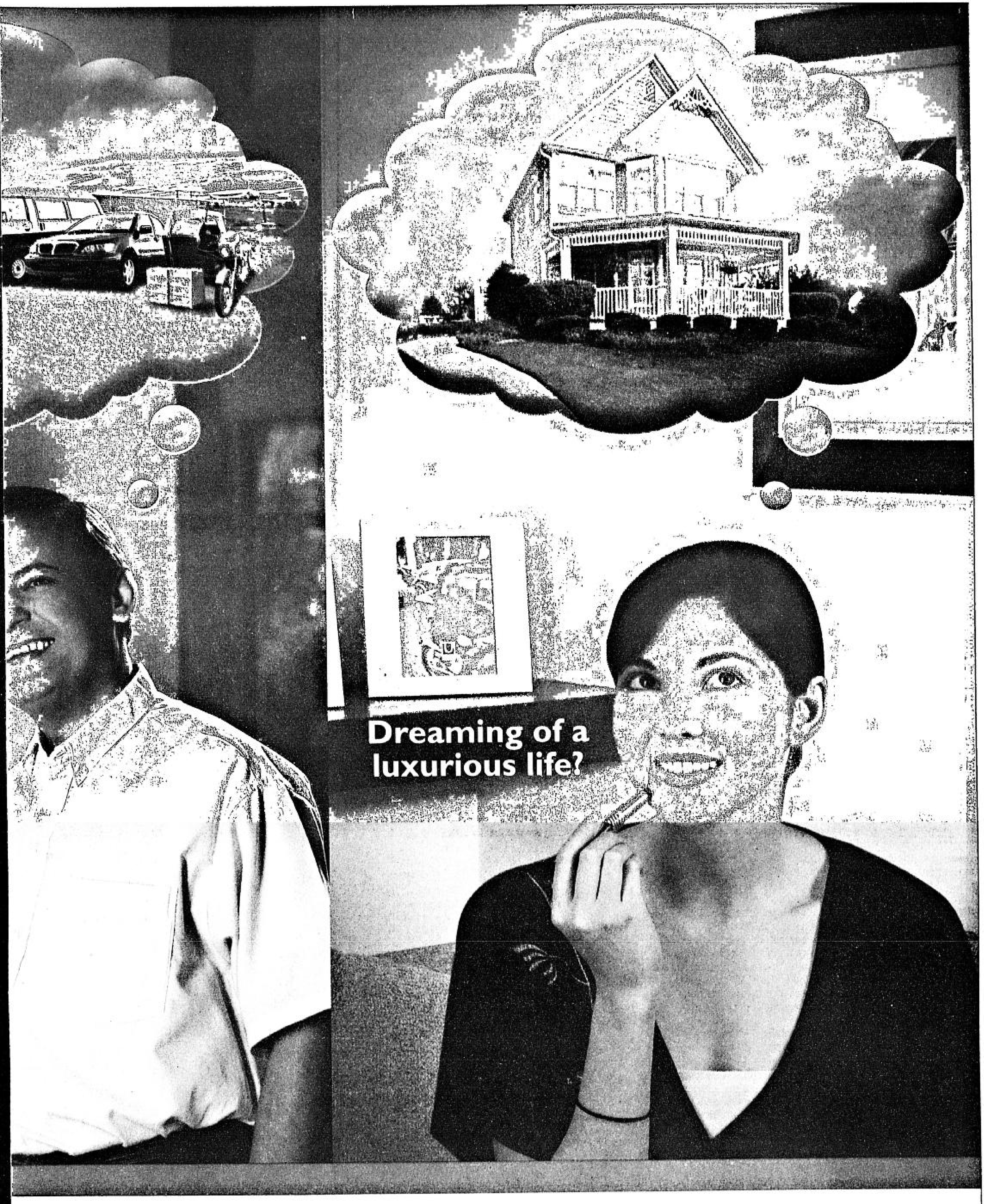
Live your dream life.

choose your dream returns

Get a chance to win the prize of your dreams! Simply register, and e
worth of any combination of IDD calls, International Text, MMS
downloads, and other value-added sevices will earn you a raffle entr
showcase of your choice! Three monthly draws will be held, and the
bigger each time: travel packages, a Volvo XC90, cash for a vacation
furnishings, or business ventures. ₱50,000 in cash or lifestyle prizes wil
away weekly. 10 subscribers get to win ₱1,000 phone credits every
bonus, registered subscribers of each brand, i.e. Smart Infinity/Gold
Smart Buddy, and Talk 'N Text who garner the highest number of acc
entries for the entire duration of the promo will receive a special bo

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART hotline at 888 1111 or *888 (toll free), e-mail us at
is from March 21 to June 20, 2004. Monthly draw dates: April 23, 2004, May 21, 2004 and June 21, 2004
Business Showcases. Subscribers can only win once in the weekly and monthly draws. Prizes shown he

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



very ₱15
, SMART
y for the
prizes get
ome and
l be given
day! As a
, Addict,
umulated
ius prize.

Nestlé Lemonade

Buy Nestlé products and earn:

100g= 1 raffle entry
500g= 4 raffle entries

Look for Choose Your Dream sticker in NESTLE LEMONADE packs.

Type LEMONADE<code> and send to 232.

Registered subscribers get the chance to win one of the 24 Lemonade gift packs to be raffled off daily.

Codes can only be entered once.
Raffle entry/entries will only be earned on the first successful try.

For more information on the promo:

DREAM
1. Type DREAM.

232
2. Send to 232.
Message sent costs P2.50.

To join, register for free:

REG name/ address/ showcase
1. Type REG<space> NAME/ADDRESS/ SHOWCASE.

232
2. Send to 232

To get daily score updates:

SCORE ON
1. Type SCORE<space>ON

232
2. Send to 232.

Message sent and each daily entry update received cost P2.50. To cancel daily entry updates, send CANCEL to 232. Message sent costs P2.50. To check number of raffle entries accumulated, text SCORE to 232. Message sent costs P2.50.

ustomercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you. Promo period
Prizes are convertible to cash except for special bonus prize and Nestle Lemonade prizes in
e may not look exactly like the actual prizes.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

See flyers for complete details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1308. Series of 2004.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 19 No. 107
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Losers all

EDITORIAL

THE KINDEST thing that can be said about the compromise agreement giving control of Maynilad Water Services to the government is that its timing stinks. The deal was announced Thursday, almost halfway into the presidential campaign season, handing the opposition some powerful ammunition to fire at the Macapagal administration.

But then the administration is not well-known for timing its moves well—or maybe it does have the knack for concluding dubious deals at the right time. Last December when everyone was in a celebratory mood, the Social Security System announced that it had entered into an agreement with Banco de Oro wherein the latter would purchase its 29 percent stake in Equitable PCIBank for P14 billion, payable over a number of years. Now amid the distractions of a close presidential contest, it has concluded another controversial transaction involving billions of pesos.

Under the new agreement, some P8 billion in concession fees that Maynilad has not paid over the years will be converted into equity and turned over to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, giving the government agency a 61 percent stake in the water company. In addition, the MWSS will get $50 million out of the $120-million performance bond put up by the Maynilad consortium, composed of Benpres Holdings and a French company. However, the "reorganized" water firm will be stuck with over P10 billion in debts.

Various opposition politicians have denounced the agreement, variously describing it as a return of cronyism, a midnight deal or a bailout of the influential Lopez family, the majority owner of Benpres. Opposition presidential candidate Raul Roco decried the "obscene haste" with which the deal was concluded and called for a review of its terms, saying it was colored by politics. Vice-presidential candidate Loren Legarda of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, who became nationally known as a news reader of the Lopez owned ABS-CBN television network, said the transaction was "an unforgivable betrayal of the public trust" and "nothing less than criminal."

Malacañang, however, justified the agreement as necessary to ensure an uninterrupted supply of water to Maynilad's concession area, which makes up about half of Metro Manila. "This is a matter of public interest," Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

The Lopezes also denied that they got a special favor from Malacañang in exchange for letting Sen. Noli de Castro, a proven vote-getter, run with President Macapagal-Arroyo. "How can it be a bailout when the Lopez Group is completely writing off its equity investment of $80 million?" asked Benpres chair Oscar Lopez.

But some big businessmen said Benpres and its foreign partner should have been left to deal with the consequences of their business decisions. "What would prevent other companies from seeking government's help once they find themselves in a deep financial hole?" asked Sergio Luis-Ortiz, president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation. Donald Dee, executive vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, "Maynilad's debts should be the concern of its own shareholders, not the government's."

At this point, what seems clear is that everyone is a loser in this transaction. But while the Lopezes will be able to cut their losses, the Filipino consumers and taxpayers will be left to shoulder most of the burden. All those debts, both those handed down to Maynilad by the MWSS under the original concession agreement and those incurred by the private firm, are going to be paid either by consumers through higher water rates or by taxpayers should its earnings not be enough. Thus, it is again the Filipino people who will have to pay for decisions they had no hand in making.

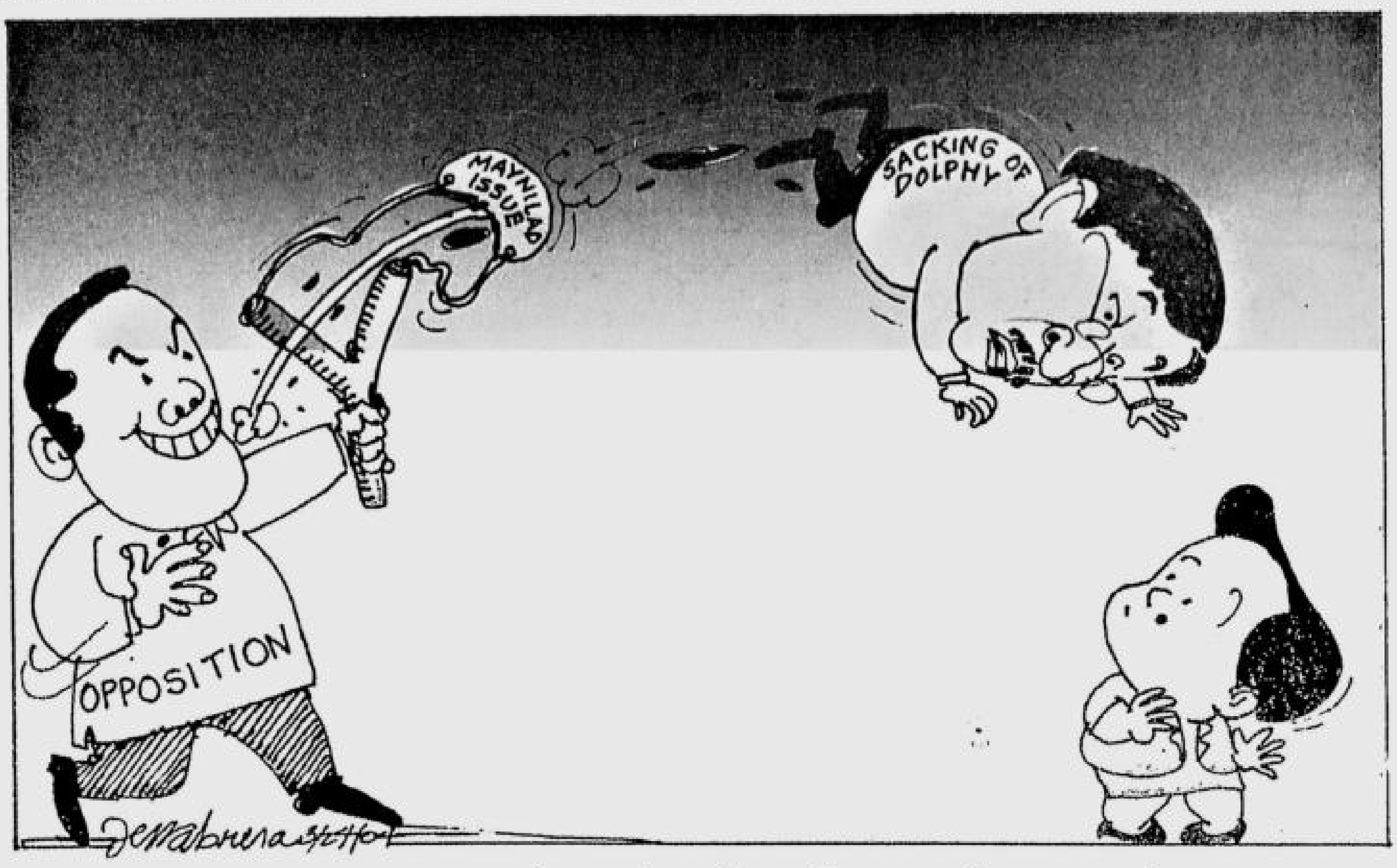
Strong response

FOREIGN COMMENT

FIRST and foremost, the Spanish elections were an exemplary civic retort to the terrorist threat. Spaniards turned out massively at the polls and in so doing, showed not only that they are willing to demonstrate in the streets in repudiation of terrorism—but to use the instruments of democracy to make their will manifest.

The outcome underlined voter intent to punish the official Popular Party candidate for presumed government manipulation of information about the origins of the attack ahead of the elections. The outcome of the Spanish election is sure to have repercussions on other political stages. Zapatero has already promised a frontal assault on terrorism but also said he will withdraw Spanish troops from Iraq.

Clarin (Buenos Aires, Argentina)



GMA using gov't funds, facilities for reelection

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IF you were a boxer in a prizefight, would you like the referee and the three judges putting down bets for your opponent? Or, if it were a basketball game, wouldn't you be paranoid if the owner-manager of the other team chooses the referees and gives free tickets to the audience? That, in simple terms, is what's bugging the KNP ticket about the largesse that President Macapagal-Arroyo and her administration are distributing to voters this campaign season. The President-candidate, the opposition claims, is distributing taxpayers' money in the form of health benefits, loans, jobs, doles and propaganda as though all of these came from her own pockets, for which the people should be so grateful as to vote for her in the May elections.

Foul! cries the opposition. The money comes from all the Filipinos, including the opposition, and the President should not make it appear that she is a real-life Santa Claus distributing all these gifts in exchange for votes, and that what she is distributing is her own money.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, the newest adviser of Fernando Poe Jr., and KNP senatorial candidates Alfredo Lim, Boots Anson-Roa and Amina Rasul were the guests at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila and they explained why they filed a petition with the Supreme Court to force GMA to go on a leave of absence while she is campaigning for the presidency. Roa and Rasul were the two candidates who filed the petition with the help of their lawyers.

They are not trying to disqualify GMA, as certain people tried to do with FPJ—which makes the present petition something like poetic justice, the shoe is now on the other foot—but they merely want the high court to tell her to go on leave while campaigning so that she cannot use taxpayers' money and government facilities and personnel to her advantage.

I do not think the petition will get anywhere with the present Supreme Court. The high tribunal is packed with GMA's appointees, some of whom have already shown, in the disqualification case against FPJ, that they would not hesitate to discard justice to favor their benefactor. The R & R (Roa and Rasul) petition, therefore, is nothing more than a *"suntok sa buwan."*

However, when you look at the facts objectively, without letting the legal technicalities cloud your judgement, you will realize that R & R have a point.

The present Constitution bans reelection for the President so that the incumbent cannot use government funds and facilities for her reelection. The framers of the Constitution wanted an even playing field for the presidential candidates.

However, we are now in a unique situation that the framers did not foresee. GMA was not elected to the presidency. She just took over, as Vice President, from President Estrada, who was forced out of Malacañang. Therefore, technically, she can still run for president. But which puts her in the position that the Constitution seeks to avoid: a sitting President using government funds and facilities for her reelection.

And she has been doing that shamelessly. She has been distributing "health cards" with her name and photograph that would give the holder free medical treatment in government hospitals and clinics. The money for the insurance premium came from billions paid by Filipinos to government agencies such as the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., etc. The health cards are distributed through the mayors to their constituents, so you can be sure that only their supporters, and therefore of GMA, will get them.

But providing health benefits is a job of the government and the President is only doing her job, claims Malacañang.

There's nothing wrong with distributing health insurance to the people, R & R say, but please remove GMA's name and photograph from the cards because the money to fund it comes not from her but from the people.

Likewise, there's nothing wrong with maintaining and cleaning the streets and providing jobs to workers, but please do not put GMA's name on their T-shirts because the money for the T-shirts, the workers' salaries and the road maintenance comes not from GMA but from the people's taxes.

Nothing wrong, too, with giving loans to students but why give them only to students of voting age? And why only now, during the election campaign, when that has been authorized by law a long time ago?

And why is the Government Service Insurance System now suddenly generous with loans when only a few months ago it was so stingy? And why is the PCSO also suddenly generous with advertisements and commercials that have the name and photograph of GMA as though all the benefits are coming from her own pocket?

In short, say R & R, what GMA and government agencies are doing is "electioneering." It is nothing short of "vote-buying." They are buying the people's votes with money paid by all the taxpayers.

That is the anomaly that the Constitution wanted to avoid but which is being done now with impunity. A President-candidate has the best of both worlds. She uses government facilities and personnel in her reelection campaign. She uses government planes, helicopters, ships and land vehicles run by personnel paid with taxpayers' money to campaign all over the Philippines. Her billboards and streamers announcing government projects, again paid for with taxpayers' money, not to say her illegal posters, are also all over the place.

Only the Supreme Court can stop this anomaly. But do the honorable justices have the guts to stop it?

History lessons

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THEORETICALLY, one can always argue that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had nothing to do with it, it was purely the network's decision. That is the decision of ABS-CBN to drop Dolphy's show, "Home Along Da Airport," from its roster. And theoretically, ABS-CBN may cite all sorts of reasons why it did so. That was what GMA 7 did late last year when it dropped "Probe" from its roster, after "Probe" vigorously protested management's unilateral deletion of its segment on Pagcor Chair Efraim Genuino, showing him to flunk GMA's lifestyle check.

But that is so theoretically. In practice, everyone called the "Probe" move censorship, though nobody pretty much did anything about it. This country is getting inured to iniquity every day, confining its reactions to it with world-weary ejaculations of what else is new. Well, what is new is that we're plunging to even deeper levels of misery every day, courtesy of it. But that's another story.

In practice, too, everyone will call the ABS-CBN move censorship. I do not know that Dolphy's show advertises Fernando Poe Jr. in it, nobody has said it does. So it can't be argued as a case of violating Comelec rules, assuming that the Comelec has rules on that. Nor may the show be accused as not rating, Dolphy remains a force to reckon with as crowd drawer. His crime comes down to having declared support for FPJ.

The opposition says it was part of the sweetener that went with the Benpres bailout. ABS-CBN may deny it to death, but that accusation won't disappear from the public mind so easily, if at all. GMA too may deny she had anything to do with it, but that too won't disappear from the public mind, if at all. I'm curious in fact to see how the fiasco will affect Noli de Castro, whose decision to throw his lot with GMA will ultimately be seen as the source of Dolphy's exit from De Castro's favorite station.

Theoretically, all of them may say it wasn't censorship. In practice, they'll be as believable as GMA saying she isn't using public funds to campaign.

What pisses me off about the axing of Dolphy's show is not that I am a Pidol fan. I stopped being so when he stopped being true to what he said so wittily, which was, "It's easy to run, the problem is, what if I win?" What applies to him applies to his *kumpare*, too.

Indeed, what pisses me off about it is not that it smacks of absolute cheekiness and hypocrisy. Though by itself that is something to get really pissed off about. Even if you grant that Dolphy is advertising FPJ in his show (which he is not), what of it? Every time I watch an NBA game on Solar Sports, I see "Honeygirl" de Leon advertising GMA in it, at every break. The same is true every time I switch on my car radio, I hear Honeygirl trumpeting her honeygirl's presumed virtues. At least Dolphy uses his own money to show me how funny he is. GMA uses my money and that of my neighbor's to show me how serious she is. Between Mr. Pidol and Mrs. Pidal, I and my neighbor won't have much problem choosing whom to ax.

But what really pisses me off about the axing of Dolphy's show is what it does for FPJ. That's right, for FPJ and not to FPJ. It swings public sympathy to him. Between GMA's move to bail out Benpres and her move to boot Dolphy out of ABS-CBN (that is how the public will see it), the one that's bound to have a deeper impact on the vote is the latter. The first matters only to the intelligentsia, the second to everyone. Dolphy cuts across classes, probably even ages. There is in fact a rough precedent for this and comes straight from GMA's own father. Truly those who do not heed history are doomed to repeat it!

During the 1965 campaign when Ferdinand Marcos ran against Diosdado Macapagal, who was the incumbent, he had his biography, "For Every Tear, A Victory"—such as Hartzell Spence's account of him may be called a biography—turned into a movie. The movie was called "Iginuhit ng Tadhana" and had Luis Gonzales and Gloria Romero, two of the hottest stars then, play him and Imelda. Macapagal, fearing the movie might prove to be a huge propaganda bonanza for his opponent, decided to stop it from being shown. Macapagal's colleagues in the Liberal Party, fearing the move might antagonize the public, pleaded with him not to. But Macapagal was adamant, he had the showing stopped.

As his colleagues feared, public sympathy swiftly turned Marcos' way. The Free Press and the Manila Times cried censorship—at least there were institutions then to do that—and roused public indignation over it. In the end, Macapagal was forced to relent. But too late, he himself had advertised the movie more than anybody else. When it opened, long queues formed in movie theaters, and it turned out to be a hit. It became bigger in adversity than in prosperity. When the smoke cleared after election day, Marcos had Macapagal biting the dust.

Dolphy's sacking in ABS-CBN isn't just bound to swing sympathy to him, it is bound to swing sympathy for the candidate he is supporting. And correspondingly more hostility toward GMA. Considering that the number of undecided in the surveys is unusually high, that may trigger a rush in the direction of Dolphy's favorite candidate. It is a blunder, and a monumental one. GMA may not have made a friend out of Dolphy, but she did not need to make an enemy out of him. Or more to the point, she did not have to make a martyr out of him. If his show experiences a sudden boost in ratings after it repairs to another station, you'll catch a glimpse of how the voting will go in May.

In the 1965 elections, there were only two candidates slugging it out, so Macapagal's blunder only favored Marcos at his expense. Today, it favors FPJ not just at her expense but at the other candidates' as well.

That's the tragedy of it.

Still unpredictable

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE FRANTIC effort to forge a united opposition front between Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson against President Macapagal-Arroyo underlines the importance of the pivotal swing vote held by Lacson in determining the outcome of the May presidential election.

With Macapagal and Poe tied according to last February's Social Weather Stations poll survey, the battle has intensified in the fractured opposition camp for control of the 11.4 percent vote Lacson has polled in the February surveys. Although Lacson took fourth place in the rankings, following Raul Roco, who polled 17.9 percent, he is very much aware of his spoiler's role in derailing the Poe campaign. He has played his cards well, and is giving nightmares to Poe, who has been recognized by the courts as the opposition's official presidential candidate.

Pressure has mounted on Lacson to withdraw from the presidential race and to back Poe, who had lost his front-running position last February when the President grabbed the lead with 31.8 percent—albeit only marginally—with Poe polling 30.5 percent. Lacson has rebuffed these pressures. Instead, he has turned the tables, insisting Poe should slide down to be his vice-presidential candidate. Prospects of a united opposition front have dimmed as Poe's poll ratings have declined, shattering the bubble of his "invincibility" fostered by his handlers, and strengthening Lacson's belief that a Lacson-Poe (in that order) ticket can be a formidable team to challenge the President whose campaign appears to be gaining ground while that of the opposition has lost momentum.

The swivel role of Lacson in determining the election outcome has been highlighted by the survey findings of a significant number of undecided voters, as of February. The survey found that 54 percent of Poe voters, 51 percent of Macapagal voters, 40 percent of Roco voters and 46 percent of Lacson voters said they would definitely not change their minds. The proportion of "soft" voters—who might yet change their minds—was, 33 percent of Macapagal voters, 31 percent of Poe voters and 26 percent of Roco voters. Mahar Mangahas, head of the SWS, interpreted the figures on swing voters, thus: with 45 percent of Lacson voters saying that they can still "easily change their minds," Lacson voters "appear to be the most vulnerable to campaign persuasion."

Mangahas' interpretation seems to have fueled the intensified struggle in the opposition camp over the significant number of soft voters identified with Lacson—whose swing could be large enough to give Poe the edge in breaking the tie with the President. This is an edge that Poe sorely needs to recharge his campaign with momentum, and to draw campaign contributions from the business community, which has been nervous recently over his reckless pronouncements on "debt structuring."

There is the problem over whether if Lacson withdraws, his soft voters will shift en bloc to Poe, whose handlers Lacson cannot politically live with. They could fragment, although they are not likely to go to the President.

Pulse Asia's February survey similarly found Macapagal and Poe tied, the survey also picked up a "big" chunk of 24 to 28 percent "swing votes." In the Pulse Asia Survey, the President polled, 31.9 percent, marginally ahead of Poe (31.7 percent), with Roco, 16.2 percent and Lacson 10.7 percent. Felipe Miranda, head of Pulse Asia, said that with these findings on the size of the soft or swing vote, even those at the tail-end "can make a stunning turnaround."

The size of the swing votes (24 to 28 percent), makes Roco and Lacson, as well as their voters, the target of persuasion campaigns. This explains why, during the past recent weeks, there have been reports on efforts in both the administration and opposition camps, to pressure either Lacson to make way for Poe or Roco to make way for the President. Since it would take a big leap for Roco or Lacson to overtake the lead of the front-runners, the logic of this situation is that pressure will continue to mount on Roco and Lacson to realign.

Roco's voters appear to be based in the middle and upper classes, a constituency he shares with the President, who has a big lead over Poe in these classes. While it is unlikely that Lacson voters will shift to the President, the Roco voters are unlikely to vote for Poe. They might not be enthusiastic over the President, but in a choice between the President and Poe, they are likely to go for the President. The choice will be hard, but it will be determined by the consideration of choosing the lesser evil.

Unless Roco shows dramatic gains in forthcoming surveys, or a shocking event takes place that can redraw the political map (like the Madrid bombing that dramatically turned public opinion against the government of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar), he will have to cope with pressures calling for his realignment. So the lesson is that in a close race, unexpected dramatic events can change the course of the elections. In a volatile setting where the current campaign is taking place, such flukes of events should never be discounted.

An unexpected event sealed the fate of former President Joseph Estrada in January 2001 when the impeachment court sealed an envelope of evidence on his trial, igniting the explosion of Edsa II. Since 1986, political stalemates in this country have been decided by unpredictable events—the military mutiny of 1986 and the second Edsa uprising in 2001. In the current electoral stalemate, reflected by the surveys—in which institutional process is not in place—there is nothing predictable until May 10.

Women at a crossroads

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

(Last of the excerpts from a commencement address delivered before the graduates of Miriam College last March 20.)

EVERY woman who finds herself at a crossroads would do well to remember that she need only look out at those who came before her, and look back to those who follow her, to find her way... It's astonishing to realize that we are just one or two generations away from the real pioneers, the women of our mothers' and grandmothers' generation who dared break through barriers and braved the scorn and disapproval that confronted the really daring. We cannot wage our struggle for equality and respect without first thanking the women who came before us, opening doors for us, winning battles that paved our way... And if you could give a thought to the feminists who had to fight for our right to wage the struggle for gender equality even as we fought the dictatorship, we would be so grateful!

But even as you walk out of the grounds of Miriam College today, the proud and confident beneficiaries of decades of women's struggles for equality, give a thought to the young women following in your footsteps. Resolve that for their sake you will not hesitate to open every door you find locked and barred to your entry. And if society will not allow you entry, I hope each of you will find the strength to break down every door and kick it in if necessary.

After our first decade of existence, we in Pilipina realized that we needed to re-direct our energies and focus on the role of women in politics and public power if we were to finally bring the women's agenda to what we called "the table of the patriarchs," the locus of power and decision-making. So long as we remained in the realm of advocacy and women's welfare, we decided, we would only be begging for scraps from this table, content with the small concessions that men were willing to concede to us...

* * *

THE PARTY-LIST elections of 1998 seemed to offer the perfect opportunity to test our theories about women and politics, and to prove our belief in the existence of a women's vote in the Philippines. It was our desire not just to prove that there IS a women's vote in this country, but also to demonstrate the power and strength of that vote...

With other women's organizations such as Aware, Kaiba, the Kilusan ng Kababaihan sa Pulitika and Women in Nation-building, as well as prominent women in politics and civic affairs, we in Pilipina founded Abanse! Pinay in 1997. Four women's party-list groups participated in the 1998 elections... but only Abanse! Pinay managed to win enough votes to get one seat in the House of Representatives...

Abanse! Pinay is now in its third electoral campaign, and while we may not have attained the status of grizzled veterans yet, we have learned enough lessons to teach us about the differences between NGO work and advocacy and partisan politics... Our theme and rallying call this time around is "Women's health, women's rights, women's lives," seeking to highlight the links between our bodies and our destinies, our rights and our survival.

The record that Abanse! Pinay has chalked up in Congress, through two terms of our representative, Congresswoman Patricia Sarenas, proves beyond doubt the value of a legislator who sees women as her primary constituency...

Last March 8, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law a measure that addresses violence against women and their children. This law consolidates several measures, including a bill on domestic violence and another known as the anti-AWIR bill, for "abuse of women in intimate relationships." ...A close scrutiny of the new law will show that it is based mainly on the original bill filed by our Abanse! Pinay representative during her first term...

* * *

BEFORE WE launched our first campaign for Abanse! Pinay, our friends, even the feminists among them, expressed skepticism about our success, claiming that women in the provinces and in the barangays were not interested at all in women's issues. But we found out to the contrary in our sorties... It was here where our messages seemed to resonate strongest, especially when we brought up the issue of domestic violence, *bugbugan sa loob ng tahanan*. I found the eyes of the women would light up, their backs straighten as if finding new resolve, when we promised to do something to bring an end to the violence they were experiencing, and to bring their abusers to justice...

I have no illusions that the new law will bring an end to all forms of violence against women, or that it will lead to an appreciable decrease in its incidence in the near future. But at least the law recognizes violence among members of the family as a distinct crime, meting out heavier penalties than for mere "physical injuries," and broadening the legal definitions for "violence"...

To the women I've encountered and still encounter in travels around the country, I'd like to say: Here it is, the law you've been asking for. Thank you for your courage in talking about your experiences, and for the anger that fueled our resolve. Because of you, we have this law, and in due time, perhaps we can truly live in a society that is free from violence.

* * *

IT has been a long journey from the corridors of Maryknoll—a journey I have not made alone, because I know of so many other women who have made similar sojourns... To you who are about to embark on your own flights towards independence, self-sufficiency, professional achievement and personal fancy, I wish you favorable air currents and a comfortable ride. But remember that any turbulence you encounter will only add to the memories of the trip and make your welcome warmer. And when you do go home again, as I have this afternoon, may the reception prove as wonderful and awesome as it has been for me. Thank you for your patience and congratulations to you all!

What do we prefer to watch on cable TV?

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

SOMEONE should do a study on cable television viewership to see if the medium has actually changed our lives and tastes in the same way that the Internet has accomplished in the past few years. In principle, cable TV provides us with a wide choice of programs but what do Filipinos really watch in the middle of the night? Long before cable TV became available, some Filipinos were able to catch programs from the US bases that provided not only new programs but news that was not censored by the government of Ferdinand Marcos. Later, those huge and crude discs captured shows from other countries that were, again, a respite from government television.

Televisions came with a round channel selector that could only get Channels 2, 4, 7, 9 and 13. Worse, whenever Imelda Marcos went abroad or came back, all regular programming was suspended and we were all hooked on the airport arrival area and fed inane commentary by Rita Gaddi Baltazar and Ronnie Nathanielsz who had to fill in the silence. Now that we have over a hundred stations to choose from today, I do wonder what Filipinos really watch aside from Channels 2 and 7. Who tunes in regularly to Thai, Indonesian, Korean, Chinese or Japanese programs? I sometimes watch French films with French subtitles to help me cope with diction from native-born speakers. I hardly watch the Spanish channel because the Madrid speakers always leave me breathless. We do speak a peculiar Spanish in the Philippines. With nothing better to watch at night I find myself updating on re-runs of Tagalog movies.

Despite all the options available, I probably stick to about half a dozen channels. When I want to be amused I shuttle back and forth between the Iglesia ni Cristo channel and that of Eli Soriano and watch them fight on air. Don't they have better things to do like save souls? When I want to learn something, naturally, I turn to the National Geographic or Discovery Channel. What usually gets my attention on these channels are documentaries on deadly animals or reptiles. There is an enticing mix of fear and fascination that accompanies documentaries on sharks, piranhas, scorpions, snakes and spiders. These potentially dangerous things are so close on screen and yet so harmless.

Since we live in the 21st century, in urban spaces, where the only snake we will ever encounter will be the one on TV or those in a zoo, documentaries on snakes never fail to draw an audience. Watching these reminded me of an article titled "Philippine Snakelore" by Daniel Bunag that appeared in the July 1935 issue of the Philippine Magazine. The article was a compilation of snake beliefs and superstitions that reminded me of another time, another world. After watching cable TV, I at least know that not all snakes are venomous like the *alupong* or *ulupong*, and that some snakes like pythons or *ahas bitin* (hanging snake) smothered the victim and swallowed it whole. I never heard of sleeping snakes (*ahas tulog*) or a type known as "Virgin's snake" that were usually found coiled behind religious pictures or statues in homes and churches. These snakes were not killed but were kept as lucky charms.

Beliefs seen to be superstitious nonsense today had its function in the past and give us a clue into the lives of our ancestors. In an age before science and cable TV, for example, it was believed that sea snakes were the most lethal of all. These were considered so poisonous that if they bit the rudder of a banca, everyone on board would die! Then there were the various ways to kill a snake. Often you beat it to death with a stick or club, but care should be taken that it is a wood with a bitter sap that counteracted snake venom. If you made the mistake of using *madre cacao* it was believed to conduct poison such that if you hit a snake with it the holder would die even if he or she were not bitten. This being the case, it would be better to use a bolo to cut a snake's head off. When I was a child spending summer in a Bohol farm, we were warned that if we killed a snake we should make sure we destroyed its eyes because these acted like a camera. We were told that if the snake's eyes were not destroyed other snakes would look into them and see the face of the snake killer. Then they would seek revenge by hunting us down even if we went back to Manila.

If you think the snake eye story is something for "Ripley's Believe It or Not," the 1935 warning was more frightening. A man was supposed to have killed a snake by using his trusty bolo to cut the snake's head cleanly from its body. The body died but the head flew away and the man didn't bother. When he got home his whole family was dead, and beside his lifeless wife was the head of the snake he had just killed. What do you do with a snake head? Make it into a lucky charm.

What do you do when bitten? Lie still and call for a *herbolario* who will make an incision close to the snake bite and suck the venom out. The other cure was to tie *talahib* to your waist and chew on papaya seeds. Or simply be quiet and pick up soil from the spot where you were bitten and rub it on the wound! Not all very scientific, really, but all these dated beliefs are indicators of past lifeways . History is not always about great men and events but rather how far we have come—or gone back—in the past 100 years.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

'You Tan? You tan'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WAH, tao tiah this Singlish lah. Feel lagi kayu.

Formal translation from the Singlish (Singaporean English): "Goodness this Singlish is difficult. I feel really stupid."

Feel blur? (Feeling confused?) Maybe a more literal translation will help, including the origins of the words.

Let's start with *"wah,"* a Hokkien Chinese expression like "Oh!", often used at the start of a sentence. After that initial exclamation, we have *"tao tiah"* which is again Hokkien Chinese, and means "headache." That first sentence ends with *"lah,"* common in Singlish and again derived from Hokkien, a term that puts a full stop to the sentence and loosely equivalent to our Tagalog *"na"* or the English "already"... which, incidentally, is pronounced similarly in Singlish and Taglish as *"oreydi."*

Let's go through that first sentence again: "Oh what a headache this Singlish already." Feeling most exasperated, I followed that with a statement, *"feel lagi kayu." Kayu* is the Malay word for "wood"; to feel like wood means, as you might have guessed, to feel stupid. The Malay *"lagi,"* like our Tagalog (and Cebuano) *lagi*, adds emphasis to produce a sense of feeling always stupid.

Where did I learn all this Singlish? From a totally entertaining book called "The Coxford Singlish Dictionary" edited by Colin Goh and Y. Y. Woo. I thought I'd share some of what I learned for several reasons.

First, given that there are so many Filipinos living and working in Singapore, you might to prepare yourself when a relative or friend returns and begins to use this strange new language.

A second reason for today's column is that I thought Singlish provides us with an excellent contemporary example of the dynamism of languages, especially in the way words are borrowed and modified.

Singlish shows how English, the language of British colonizers, came to be adopted by a population that was largely Hokkien Chinese, Hokkien being the dialect spoken by the Chinese who migrated to Singapore. (I should add this is the same dialect used by most Chinese-Filipinos so some of my Chinoy readers should be able to recognize many of the Singlish words.)

Singlish also draws from Malay, the ethnicity of about 15 percent of Singapore's population. And then of course there's English itself, which forms the core for Singlish, allowing Malay and Hokkien terms to mutate in the most unexpected ways.

Sometimes, the new words result from a difference in the way words are pronounced. You can get many examples listening to the Singapore-based Channel News Asia on cable TV but here's one concrete example: someone selling drinks soy milk in Singapore might ask you *"hawk one or koh one?"* which means, "hot one or cold one?"

Singlish also uses a lot of short cuts. You might be talking your head off until a Singaporean cuts you off, "What talking you? You feeling powderful?" which means "What are you talking about? Are you on some power trip?" (The "powderful" is not a typo.)

Singlish, like Taglish, will sometimes apply English syntax to local words. One can add "-ing" to a Malay verb to conjugate it English-style, as in "You *balik-ing* orredy?"... I think most of you would have guessed what it means, "You've returned already?"

Another example that Filipinos can relate to is the way English nouns are transformed into local verbs, as in "Our politicians are *buaya-ing* us." *Buaya* has the same meaning in Malay and Tagalog: a crocodile, and to *buaya* someone means to fool or to con that person.

(Sadly, all too often we deny we're being *buaya-ed* by our politicians, acting like *"bak chew tak* stamp," which means walking around with postage stamps stuck on our eyes.)

When languages borrow from each other, the possibilities of creating new meanings and rules are endless. Take the Singlish *"jerorize."* It means "to nullify." Now how did that happen? Well *"jero"* is the way Singaporeans pronounce "zero" so to *"jerorize"* is to render into a zero, therefore to invalidate! I'm sure we can all think of a few *chao buaya* (bad-smelling crocodiles, meaning sleazy characters) that should be jerorized.

I could draw more examples from the book but I thought I should refer to the authors' own reasons for compiling the dictionary. The authors tweak the Singaporean government for trying to suppress Singlish and get Singaporean to speak "good English." They point out that there are so many variations of English in the world and yet no one puts up a big fuss about how Americans have deviated from original English. (I'd add here English itself deviated from other older Teutonic languages such as German, and has loan-words from all kinds of languages.)

The book is part of a bigger project that includes a website: talkingcock.com, "talking cock" being for idle banter or nonsense talk. The website is full of satire, a healthy indication that Singaporeans do know how to laugh, at themselves and at the world.

Oh, eskew me, I nearly forgot to translate the title of today's column. A Singaporean sent to pick me up at the airport might come up and ask me, "You Tan?" meaning "Are you Mr. Tan?", followed by *"you tan"* (which means "You wait here," "tan" also meaning to wait in Hokkien.) I'll wait, patiently, knowing they will come around with the car.

But if you're courting a Singaporean and he or she tells you to *"tan ku ku"* then you better be prepared to wait... forever and a day because *"ku ku"* means a long time. As my friend Jepoy would put it, with a *bin chow chow* (smelly face), "Here I am, waiting for nothing."

THEY SAID

What's the point?

"If we protest against the United States' dominant role in world politics and we withdraw our troops knowing they will be replaced by US soldiers, what would be the point of such move?"

—Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski on pulling out Polish troops from Iraq

Propaganda medium

"It's now an effective conveyor of black propaganda."

—Sen. Edgardo Angara on the popularity of text messaging as tool for the coming elections

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

The danger in 'sincere ignorance'

JUAN L. Mercado, in his column "Peanuts and campaign melodies" (PDI, 3/11/04), quoted one of the sayings of Martin Luther King Jr., thus: "Nothing is more dangerous in the world than sincere ignorance."

This saying of King is very relevant and applicable during this political season, particularly as a way to remind our so-called leaders in all sectors of our country, the educated, intellectuals, professionals and students who believe in the sincerity of Fernando Poe Jr. in running as a candidate for president of the country. This is also meant to inform the "*masa*" that what is badly needed by our country right now is a kind of president who has the knowledge, skill and experience in governance if we are to be liberated from ignorance and poverty and not merely one who is sincere and popular.

Given the urgency of educating our people before the May 10 elections, may I request the readers to please reproduce the aforesaid quotation in sticker form or whatever, and disseminate it all over the country. This is also our humble contribution to liberate our people from ignorance and poverty.

—ERNESTO T. CABARDO,
Peñafrancia, Purok 3,
Zone 6, Barangay Cupang,
Antipolo City

What one district supervisor has done

I WISH to comment on the issue of Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus' policy of setting 75 percent as the passing grade and later on lowering it to 70 percent as against 50 percent acceptable to teachers.

With my experience as a teacher and as head teacher, principal and public schools district supervisor in my 42 years of service, I wish to say that a 70 percent or 75 percent passing rate is unattainable. Even the 50 percent suggested by teachers (PDI, 2/15/04) is hard to attain without instructional, administrative and supervisory intervention activities

When I was transferred to my hometown in Pozorrubio, Pangasinan as public schools district supervisor, I undertook a survey by way of a diagnostic test both written and oral, and found out that the mastery level of pupils from Grades 2-6 was between 34 percent and 40 percent. So what I did was to evolve strategies and intervention activities to raise the mastery level of pupils. After the second year, implementation mastery level was 37 percent; third year, 41 percent; fourth year, 52 percent; and fifth year, 60 percent based on the minimum competencies of each grade level.

So, what I am trying to point out is that the target of a 70 percent or 75 percent passing rate should be gradual and, at the same time, adopt measures, strategies and intervention activities that can help raise the mastery level of pupils/students to attain the proposed passing grade.

—HERIBERTO A. BAUTISTA,
3 Tavera, Pozorrubio,
Pangasinan

No part in DPWH vehicles scam

WE invoke our right to just and fair treatment by the media in connection with the very serious case of plunder reported in the so-called "DPWH vehicles repair scam," reported in the papers (not the INQUIRER) early this month, where we were mentioned as alleged co-conspirators.

Here is our side.

We are legitimate and duly accredited suppliers of spare parts and labor for the repair of DPWH vehicles. All our transactions in the department are legal, regular and above board. We have not been involved in any "ghost repair," "repetitive transactions" or any other fraudulent acts designed to defraud the government.

We supplied parts and labor only on the basis of valid and legal procurement and job orders that passed strict legal procedures in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

We are God-fearing and loving parents of our two children who like us, are now unduly suffering the shame and humiliation so unjustly caused us. We have never committed any crime or irregularity, or conspired with anybody in the Department of Public Works and Highways or elsewhere, for the purpose of committing a crime: We are not co-conspirators and we have absolutely no hand whatsoever in the plunder case filed by the Office of the Ombudsman with the Sandiganbayan in connection with the DPWH vehicles repair scam.

We are seeking a reconsideration of the Ombudsman's indictment. We have in fact requested the Commission on Audit to conduct a thorough audit of the DPWH transactions as we are absolutely confident that such an audit would prove our innocence.

—NONNETTE H. FULLIDO
and ROMEO C. FULLIDO,
337 Tandang Sora Ave.,
Pasong Tamo, Quezon City

Bogus air quality monitoring station

THIS is in reference to the letter of Director Julian D. Amador of the Environmental Management Bureau regarding the issue on monitoring the air quality of Metro Manila. (PDI, 2/28/04)

I would like to clarify with Amador issues concerning his agency's commitment to improving the quality of air in Metro Manila through monitoring stations to assess trends in air quality.

He stated that there was already a monitoring station situated at the Katipunan area in Ateneo that they put up last year. I am a resident of a nearby subdivision in the Katipunan vicinity, and I am a car trader with shops located at Xavierville and Congressional Avenues and quite familiar with Katipunan.

After reading the letter on this matter, I looked more closely at Katipunan to see if there was really a monitoring station that was put up. I only saw the gigantic billboard on the center island of the intersection in front of Gate 2 of the Ateneo on Katipunan. The billboard had a Globe advertisement and underneath was the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' slogan "Let's All Act to Clean the Air."

There was a small portion for an electronic display board but to my surprise, it was not functioning and there was nothing in it, just a piece of plastic made to look like an electronic display message board.

This reminds me of the same monitoring stations years ago put up also by the DENR which were designed to tell if the air quality at a certain time was "Good, Fair or Bad," but until today I see these monitoring stations without the electronic display, but just a plain billboard space for softdrink advertisements.

What is the real purpose of these monitoring boards? For prime advertising space making good advertising revenue? Clean air will still be something to be hoped for.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando should have these obstructions removed quickly.

—JOHN PATRICK LANUZA,
18 Palma St., Xavierville Subd.,
Xavierville Avenue, Quezon City

How about the political prisoners?

THIS pertains to the INQUIRER's "Talk of the Town" section. Featuring platforms of government of the presidential candidates and their stand on a host of issues that affect the lives of the people is truly groundbreaking. The value of coming out with these stories, I think, stems from our collective desire to depart from the kind of politics we have been accustomed to—traditional politics. As a form of voters' education, "Talk of the Town" gives voters honest-to-goodness education outside the realm of "entertainment-filled" election campaign sorties.

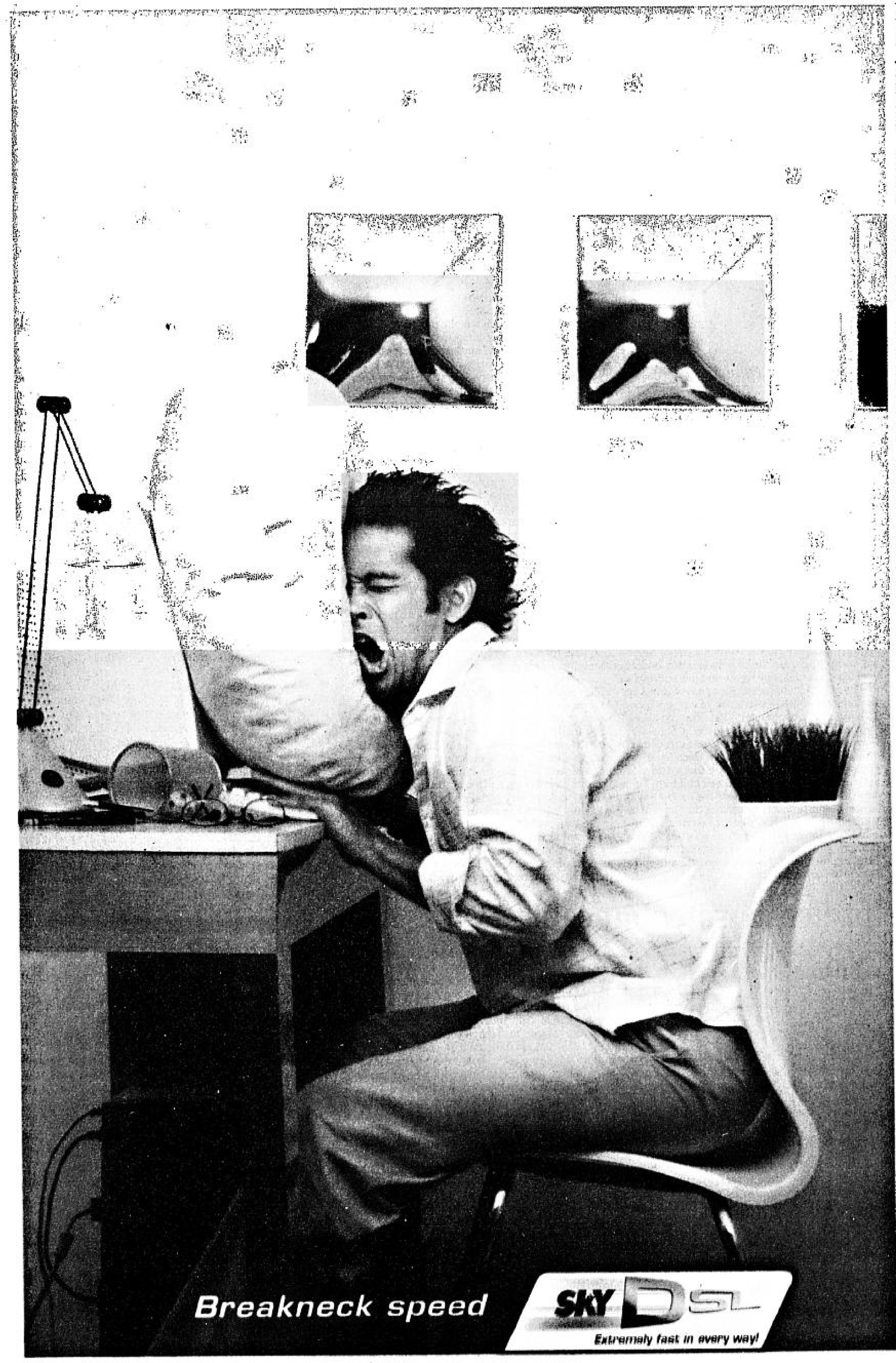
Indeed, we should take the coming elections seriously. While at this, I notice that "Talk of the Town" has taken on several issues ranging from economic reforms to stamping out criminality. The issue on political prisoners and detainees, however, have not yet been given the space and attention it deserves.

The Philippines has 225 political prisoners and detainees, and still growing. They emphasize the irony of the situation and their existence teaches us that beneath the surface of modern society, violence of poverty, injustice and oppression still exist. The cases of political prisoners and detainees are stuck in the limbo caused by a skewed judicial system and past governments seem to have lost the political will to touch the issue.

With the elections but less than two months away, all the presidential candidates have said nothing so far on the issue of political prisoners and detainees. What can these presidential aspirants offer to their struggle for freedom and justice? How long must they suffer? But it remains to be asked if these questions are in the minds of the presidential candidates.

"Talk of the Town" can help by focusing attention on it in the next few weeks. What do the presidential candidates individually intend to do abut 225 men still jailed because they are political prisoners? They, too, have rights and families and loved ones who await their eventual liberty.

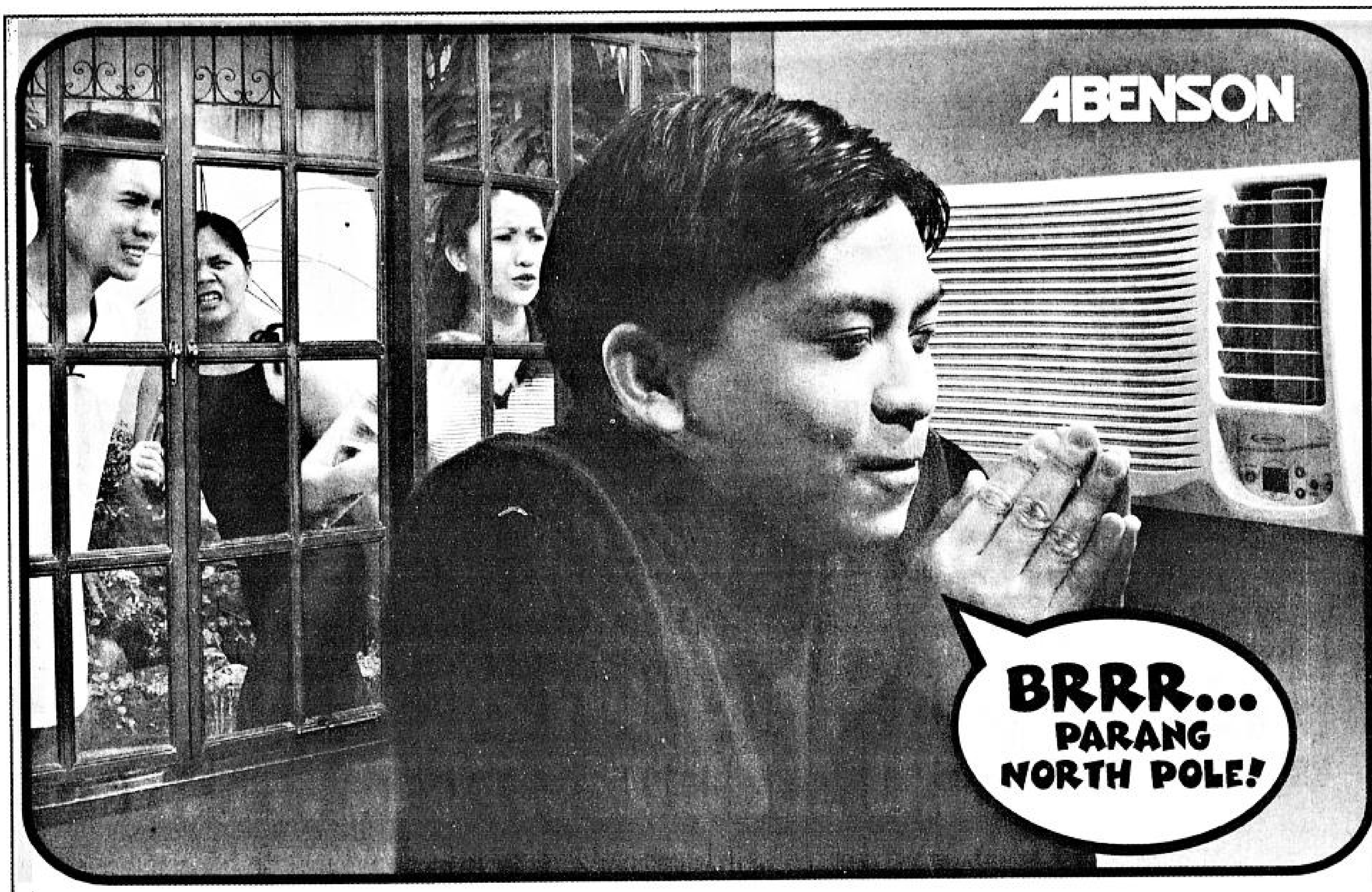
—JERBERT M. BRIOLA,
regional coordinator,
Task Force Detainees of the Philippines-
Southern Luzon, 29 S. Osmena St.,
Barangay Uno, Lucena City



Breakneck speed
SKY DSL
Extremely fast in every way!
Introducing SkyDSL, the high-speed DSL service on all counts. Experience our extremely fast download speeds at up to 384kbps and unlimited service usage. Extremely fast installations get you connected in just 5 days. And an extremely fast 24/7 customer center responds to your problems in 4 hours. Try it for 5 days FREE and see how SkyDSL breaks speed limits.
For a 5-day FREE trial, call 449-3293 or 449-3118, or visit our website at www.skyinet.net
SkyDSL is initially available in selected areas in Quezon City, Manila, Malabon and Valenzuela
Powered by SKYinternet

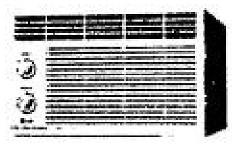
ABENSON KEEPS YOU COOL THIS MARCH WITH ITS HOTTEST SUMMER PROMOS!

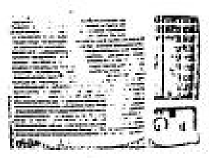
Visit Abenson Stores for included models!

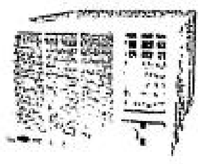


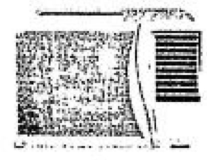
Abenson ang katapat sa init ng Summer!

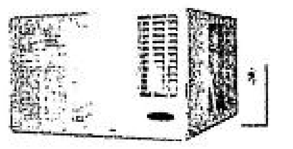
Avail of Abenson's exciting promos to keep you cool this summer!


LG LA-050MP
.50 HP room aircon
manual control
10.4 EER
₱ 6,995


CONDURA FCC 055BP
.50 HP room aircon
10.3 EER
manual control
₱ 7,995


Carrier FCA 095BP
1.0 HP room aircon
manual control
10 5 EER
₱ 13,499

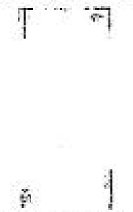

Panasonic SC121VPH
1.5 HP room aircon
10 3 EER
₱ 15,999
FREE Deskfan


KOLIN KAG 19RE
2.0 HP room aircon
10 0 EER
with remote control
₱ 18,375

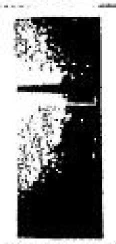
Carrier 42PPA009
1.0 HP split
wall mounted
11 0 EER
₱ 24,190
FREE installation

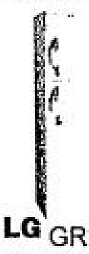
TOSHIBA RAS 18UKP2L
2.0 HP split type
wall mounted
₱ 37,000
FREE installation

Kelvinator K5SDM
5.0 cuft single door
manual defrost system
₱ 7,795
Get a blender or cooler for only ₱8


SHARP SJ22TS
7.5 cuft single door
manual defrost system
205 EEF
₱ 8,598
Get a blender or cooler for only ₱8

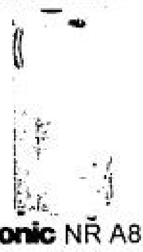
WR1899C
6.0 cuft single door
semi automatic defrost system
₱ 10,300
Get a blender or cooler for only ₱8

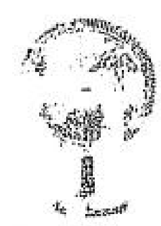

SAMSUNG RT-21MESS
7 cuft two-door refrigerator
No Frost System
₱ 12,995
Get a blender or cooler for only ₱8

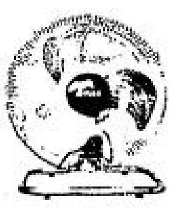

LG GR292QLC
8.4 cuft two-door
No Frost System
₱ 14,995
Get a blender or cooler for only ₱8

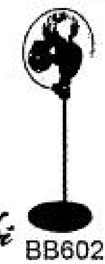
TOSHIBA GRS 32PT
10 cuft two-door
No Frost System
₱ 17,595
Get a blender or cooler for only ₱8

WR3198D
10 cuft two-door
No Frost System
₱ 18,900
Get a blender or cooler for only ₱8

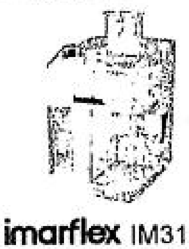

Panasonic NR A801FP
8 cuft upright freezer
manual defrost system
₱ 13,999
FREE Deskfan


UNION IMD 16
16" (40.64 cm)
deskfan in lively colors
₱ 528


A PLUS AP18
18" (45.72 cm) industrial fan
strong wind 3 speed control
₱ 945


Asahi BB6026
16" (40.64 cm)
stand fan
₱ 795

Dowell BL9888
3 speed glass jar blender
₱ 698


imarflex IM3180
Powerful motor
Juicer
₱ 978

It will inevitably grow hotter as the days of March pass by! Gladly, with Abenson it is not impossible to stay cool this summer!

You can trust Abenson when it comes to selling appliances! First, it has a wide selection of aircons and refrigerators to choose from. Most stores display a complete line of room aircons to fit both small-sized rooms and larger areas. Its refrigerator line is varied too, ranging from single doors to side-by-side refs. Second, Abenson is the leading retailer of well-known brands!

This summer, Abenson offers exclusive promos to keep you cool.

Get a **FREE** Deskfan when you buy selected room aircons

AIRCON INSTALLATION

We install split type aircons for **FREE** on selected models (from March 12 - 31, 2004). Inquire now at an Abenson store near you on models included.

Get this for only ₱ 8.00

Have a choice of a blender or a beverage cooler for only ₱8.00, Applicable on purchases of selected single door or two-door refs.

EXTENDED WARRANTY

You may also want to extend your product's warranty! With an extended warranty, you enjoy hassle-free, worry-free service on parts and labor up to 5 years!

Inquire from our Retail Associates about the appliance you wish to purchase and the exclusive Abenson promos and services that can make your shopping experience with us pleasurable.

NOW OPEN!
ABENSON
ARANETA SQUARE BR.
2/F Araneta Square
Monumento Circle,
Caloocan City.

ABENSON
All About Appliances.

Basta't Appliance...

ABENSON
All About Appliances.

Makati - Quad [illegible] 3991/818-8453, Waltermart Pasong Ta[illegible] 3-4444/894-3730 • **Mandaluyong** 631 [illegible] 8161 Shangri-la Plaza 638-8017 to 19 St. Francis Square 633-1362 • **Manila** - Robinsons - Ermita 536-8029/536-7914 Harrison Plaza 521-8588/69 • **Marik**[illegible] verbanks Mall 941-5003 • **Muntinlupa** [illegible] etropolis 809-3172/74 Alabang 850-8848 to 50 Filinvest Festival Mall 850-3775/79 • **Pasay** - Metropoint Taft Ave. 833-7829 • **Parañaque** - Pearl Plaza, Tambo 85[illegible] to 05 Sucat – Jaka 829-2686 98 • [illegible]sig - Ortigas - Ever 656-6643 to 47 • **Quezon City** - Waltermart E. Rodriguez 724-2528 SM City Carpark 920-9151 to 53 Robinsons Galleria 632-9101 to 05 Center Mall Fa[illegible]w 937-5911 Rustan's 911-2312/13 Commonwealth 9[illegible] Mall Congressional Ave 927-9432 Fa[illegible]mers 911-1[illegible] Eastwood City Libis 687-1776/6872373 • **Las Piñas** - Pamplona 872-0576/77 • **San Juan** - Greenhills – Missouri 722-1261 or 64 • **Malabon** Ma[illegible] square 285-9727 • **Kalookan** [illegible] Central 363-5[illegible] 53-5338 • **Tayuman** - Puregold Pricemart 252-5787 • **Rizal** - Sta. Lucia 1 - [illegible]ta 645-[illegible]04 Sta. Lucia 3 - Cainta 681-5301 • **Bulacan** - Me[illegible]ayan (044)228-2117 Vale[illegible] Pure Gold 277-9538.39 • **Cabanatuan** - NE Pacific Mall Nueva Ecija (044) 464-1481 to 84 • **Cavite** - Carmona (046) 430-2703/520-8063 Gen. T[illegible] (046) 8752448/49 Waltermart Dasmariñas (046) 416-2104 Lotus – Imus (046) 515-5749 Robinsons – [illegible] (046) 471 8020 or 30 • **Laguna** - Olivares Mall Biñan (049) 509 23 to Pavilion Mall, Biñ[illegible] 49) 411-4510/11 Waltermart Calamba (049) 545-7035 Waltermart Sta. Rosa (049) 549-1220 San Pablo (049) 562-8242 • **Pampanga** - Nepomall, Angeles City (045) 888-9086 Dau Pure Gold (045) 892-4788/892 [illegible] on Pacific Mall Lucena (042) 373-0443 • **Batangas** Fiesta World Mall Lipa City (043) [illegible]41651 Bay City Mall Batangas City (043) 7236790/7230934

Promo Period: March 12 - 31, 2004

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1406 Series of 2004

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

Ballot-snatch history keeps Comelec on its toes in North

BAGUIO CITY—The Commission on Elections will monitor towns in the Cordillera where ballot box snatching incidents were reported in past elections.

Armando Velasco, regional director of the Comelec, said they are monitoring some towns in Abra, Kalinga and Ifugao because of these areas' history of ballot box snatching.

Velasco identified these areas as the towns of Pasil in Kalinga and Dolores in Abra.

He said the Comelec would recommend increasing the number of policemen and soldiers in Pasil to prevent the expected tension among rival politicians from blowing up into violence.

"Of course, we are all aware that no candidate would ever wish to lose in the elections. They would do all means to win by cheating and one of them is (through) ballot box snatching," he said.

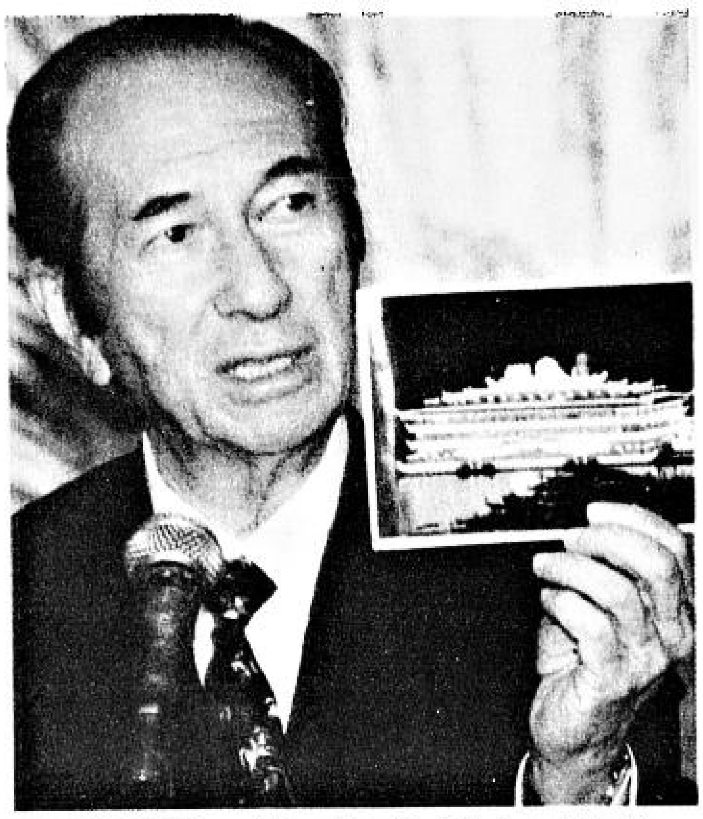
"If the counting is manual, the system is slow that the candidates would have time to cheat. This usually happens if the ballot boxes are taken to the municipal halls," Velasco said.

He said the Comelec is monitoring at least 77 towns in the Cordillera for possible election-related violence, poll fraud and irregularity.

Towns in Abra such as La Paz, Danglas and Lagayan have been declared as "hot spots" because of election-related violence in past elections.

Velasco said they have recommended the sending of 100 more policemen to Abra. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Casino mogul returns to RP



BUSINESSMAN Ho on his first visit to the Philippines shows off a picture of one of his projects—a floating restaurant. VAL HANDUMON

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Macau multi-billionaire whose floating casino whipped up a controversy against deposed President Joseph Estrada made a seven-hour low-key visit here on Monday.

Businessman Stanley Ho received an honorary doctorate from the Angeles University Foundation whose trustee is President Macapagal-Arroyo's brother. Ho also committed to pour more investments in the country.

"I promise to invest more on the Philippines," said Ho, who built his fortune on running several casinos. He received loud applause from an audience of about 200 people, including former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa and some officials of the Macapagal administration.

The commitment was the final statement in Ho's speech delivered during Monday night's elaborate rites conferring to him the doctorate degree.

The Angeles University Foundation, established by the family of Clark Development Corp. president Emmanuel Angeles, an appointee of President Macapagal-Arroyo, gave the degree.

Among the crowd largely comprised of the AUF academic community and Filipino-Chinese traders were Ho's wife, his son Lawrence and executives from the office of the presidential adviser on foreign investments.

Diosdado Macapagal Jr., Ms Macapagal's younger brother and an AUF trustee, was not seen during the conferment ceremony. The younger Macapagal replaced his father, the former President Diosdado Macapagal who was an AUF trustee until his death in 1998.

Narvasa sat right next to Ho during the three-hour event highlighted by cultural performances.

Ho arrived in this former American military base aboard his private jet at 1 p.m. Monday.

It was his second visit to the Philippines after four years, Angeles said.

In his two speeches, Ho did not give details on the projects he planned to do in the country or how much money he intends to use on these.

However, his press statement said his investments were "being undertaken in good faith as an indication of my commitment to the underlying soundness of the Philippine economy and the well-being of its people as in, for example, the Jumbo Palace Restaurant, which I believe will help contribute to the tourism industry and the public sector in the Philippines."

Since media interviews were not allowed, it was not clear if he referred to the floating casino or to a plan reviving the venture.

Docking at the Manila Bay fours years ago, the large ship created a controversy that hounded the Estrada administration.

In 2000, Estrada defended Ho, saying there was "no evidence" linking the businessman to triads or Chinese organized crime syndicates.

Angeles, in an interview before Ho's arrival, defended his guest, saying the ship was a "floating restaurant."

Lakas drops bet for congressman to impose 'party discipline'

ILAGAN, Isabela—The administration party Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats has cancelled the nomination of former Batanes Gov. Telesforo Castillejos as the party's congressional candidate in Batanes after Castillejos and some of his supporters left the ruling party.

Silvestre Bello III, Lakas-CMD Cagayan Valley chair, said Castillejos was insisting to run for congressman but Lakas and the Liberal Party have a coalition where a common candidate would be fielded for the position.

"We tried to talk to him (Castillejos) to explain the essence of the coalition (but we failed), so we (have to) respect his right to run for congressman. The party thinks of the country's better interest and it demands a maintained coalition to preserve unity," said Bello.

He said the Lakas-LP coalition decided to officially support Henedina Abad, wife of outgoing Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, for the post. Representative Abad is the LP national president.

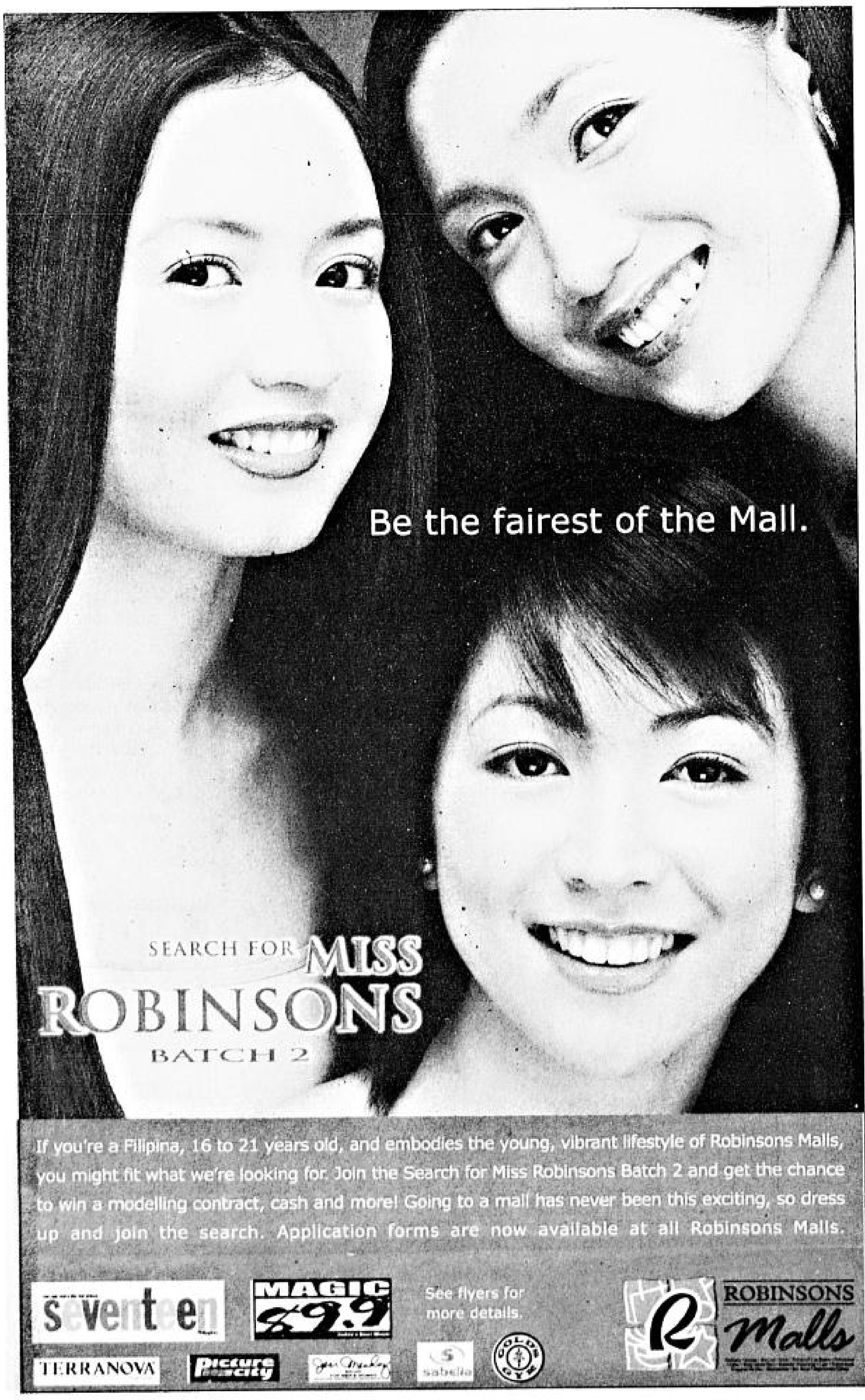
Bello said the party would penalize Castillejos, who served as Batanes governor from 1988 to 1998, for breaching party discipline.

"He should be willing to face the consequences of such move," Bello said.

He said Lakas was expecting Castillejos and his supporters to leave the party because the official was insistent on running for congressman.

Bello admitted that he was persuading Castillejos to drop his congressional bid in exchange for an appointment as assistant secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways, but Castillejos declined the offer.

Castillejos, according to Bello, was also offered a position as a director of a government-owned and controlled corporation. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



If you're a Filipina, 16 to 21 years old, and embodies the young, vibrant lifestyle of Robinsons Malls, you might fit what we're looking for. Join the Search for Miss Robinsons Batch 2 and get the chance to win a modelling contract, cash and more! Going to a mall has never been this exciting, so dress up and join the search. Application forms are now available at all Robinsons Malls.

See flyers for more details.

Negros solon thrown out of Lakas over FPJ

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—For supporting presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras was removed as Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD) chair in the first district.

He was instead replaced by his elder brother, former Rep. Jerome Paras.

Jerome told the INQUIRER that he was offered the chairmanship of the Lakas-CMD first district on Saturday morning in a breakfast meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental.

"I accepted the offer because if I didn't, it would just be offered to other people anyway," he said.

Jacinto, however, said he had no hurt feelings over his being replaced by his brother. "He (Jerome) has to find his place in the sun," he told the INQUIRER.

Although he was removed as district chair, Jacinto is still running for a third term as Lakas-CMD candidate. His opponents for the first district's congressional race are Vicente Rabaya of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino and Oster Vailoces of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

Jerome was supporting the presidential bid of former education secretary Raul Roco until December last year.

"I left Roco because we could not agree on major issues like his choice of vice president and his senatorial lineup," he said.

He said that after leaving the Roco camp, he agreed to unite with his brother Jacinto, who had declared his support for the bid of President Macapagal for a full six-year term.

"Our basis for supporting the President was our belief that a Fernando Poe Jr. presidency will be a disaster and that only the President can beat FPJ," Jerome said.

But Jacinto decided to support Poe without consulting his brother or the Lakas-CMD leaders.

Summer jobs offered C. Visayas students

DUMAGUETE CITY—Some 4,500 poor students in Central Visayas will be given the opportunity to work during this summer under the Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES).

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) regional director Rodolfo Sabulao said the DOLE has allocated some P4.1 million for the program in Central Visayas. Of the amount, P1 million was set aside for Negros Oriental.

Sabulao said qualified students would receive the daily minimum wage prevailing in their localities.

SPES is a yearly activity jointly sponsored by the DOLE and its partners. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Reporter acquitted

ILOILO CITY—Radio reporter Alex Sumagaysay was acquitted of libel charges filed in October 2002 by former Iloilo Rep. Ninfa Garin because the prosecution failed to establish that he had a hand in distributing malicious flyers against her. Garin, wife of Iloilo Rep. Oscar Garin, accused Sumagaysay of distributing flyers that allegedly blamed the Garins for the death of San Joaquin Mayor Jesus Sibya at the height of the elections in May 2001. Regional Trial Court Judge Victor Gelvezon gave credence to the testimony of Wenceslao Mateo, an editor of the Iloilo-based weekly Daily Informer, who said that he was with Sumagaysay at the San Joaquin Cemetery during Sibya's first death anniversary rites and did not see anyone distributing flyers. The flyers were seen scattered on the ground of the cemetery. *Ma. Diosa Labiste, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Health workers' plea

DUMAGUETE CITY—Health workers in Negros Oriental led a signature campaign to ask the government to stop the exodus of doctors and nurses to foreign countries. The more than 1,500 health workers in the province circulated a position paper that sought a 100 percent increase in salaries to encourage government doctors and nurses to stay in the Philippines and improve the delivery of health services. If the government would not stop the exodus of doctors and nurses abroad, the health system of the country would collapse, warned Provincial Health Officer Ely Villapando, who is leading the campaign. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Indirect contempt

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Court of Appeals (CA) cited Dumaguete City Vice Mayor William Ablong and city legal officer Neil Ray Lagahit for indirect contempt and ordered them to pay the maximum fine of P30,000 for closing a lotto outlet and confiscating its machine despite a CA order on Feb. 24, 2003 ordering the city government not to enforce the closure order pending the final disposition of the case by the regional trial court here. The CA 11th Division cleared Mayor Agustin Perdices of the same charge because he took no part in the raid on the lotto outlet of Teresita Zamora on June 18, 2003. Ablong, the acting mayor at that time, ordered and enforced the closure. Still, Perdices was ordered to return the lotto machine he confiscated from Zamora in 2001. Ablong and Lagahit were also told to return the lotto machine it confiscated during last year's raid. *Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Dogs to sniff bombs, drugs

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Negros Oriental police office will set up a canine unit by training dogs to detect drugs and bombs. Supt. Amaron Bawang Morrok, police provincial director, said the canine unit would be realized once they complete the training of the dogs, which is expected to take three years. He said there are only three breeds of dogs, which they will train to become members of the canine unit—Belgian Malinois, Golden Retriever and the Labrador Retriever. "This will be my legacy for the people of Negros Oriental," said Morrok who is due to retire in November. *Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

La Trinidad bakes giant strawberry cake

By Delmar Cariño and Vincent Cabreza
La Trinidad, Benguet

BENGUET'S La Trinidad Valley, the country's salad bowl, may now be regarded as the home of the world's largest strawberry butter cake.

Thanks to 385 strawberry farmers who produced 2,634 kilograms of fresh strawberries, the town has now bid officially to enter the Guinness Book of World Records.

The cake, served at the town hall's Lednicky Hall on Saturday, was big at 3.73 meters (12.31 feet) long, 2.63 m (8.68 ft) wide and 2.55 m (8.42 ft) high.

The cake's volume, according to the official measuring team, the Baguio chapter of the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers, was 15.23 cubic meters or 547.32 cubic feet.

At least 42,023 slices had been served from the cake baked at a cost of close to P1 million. Mayor Nestor Fongwan took the first bite at 9:45 a.m., while farmer Stephen Wakit savored the last slice at 7:33 p.m.

The giant strawberry cake's bid for a world record got a big boost after food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. came in as a major sponsor, and after the Department of Tourism gave P500,000 to finance the event.

SMC hired Jimenez Basic Advertising to document the event and submit the results to the Guinness office.

Fongwan said the cake had a different kind of sweetness, owing to the cold spell that started affecting the town and Baguio City from December last year to February.

"The colder the temperature is, the sweeter the strawberries will be," he said.

Strawberry capital

He said it was about time the town became known as the strawberry capital of the country. In fact, he said, "many still do not know that La Trinidad is just 5 km away from Baguio City."

Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab said the presentation of the giant cake would make the town a major tourist destination.

"Before, we only hear of Kalibo's Ati-Atihan and other major festivals in the country. Now, we can also speak of this town's strawberry festival as a new event in the country's tourism calendar," Palabyab said.

Fongwan said the "Sweet Charlie" variety of strawberry was used in the cake.

"The cake is exceptionally sweet because it was made of strawberries whose seeds actually came from Argentina," he said.

The town produces an annual average of 4,113 metric tons of strawberries raised from 72 hectares of agricultural land.

But since the presentation of the giant cake started in 2002, production of the temperate crop has increased, Fongwan said.

Alex Castro of Jimenez Basic Advertising said the town was actually bidding for a new category in the Guinness records since, he noted, "there are already existing records for the tallest cake or shortest cake."

"The biggest strawberry butter cake is a new category which we hope Guinness will recognize after we have submitted the needed documentation," Castro said.

The town's bid for a Guinness record comes after Dagupan City's recognition for holding the "longest barbecue." The city entered its "Kalutan ed Dagupan (Barbecue in Dagupan)" held on May 3, 2003, for official Guinness recognition.

The event featured 1,007.56 m (3,305.64 ft) of barbecue grills lined up along the city's main thoroughfare. More than 10,000 pieces of *bangus* (milkfish) were simultaneously placed on the grills and cooked by thousands of residents and guests who participated in the bid to beat Peru's record of 613 meters.

Fongwan said they were encouraged to bid for a Guinness record when Dagupan won its title using alternative procedures in documenting the attempt.

"(The Jimenez Basic Advertising) was able to get an application number ... so we know (we are now an official entry for the title). But as far as the validation is concerned, we will have to wait for eight months for an independent audit to be conducted by the Guinness organization," Fongwan said.

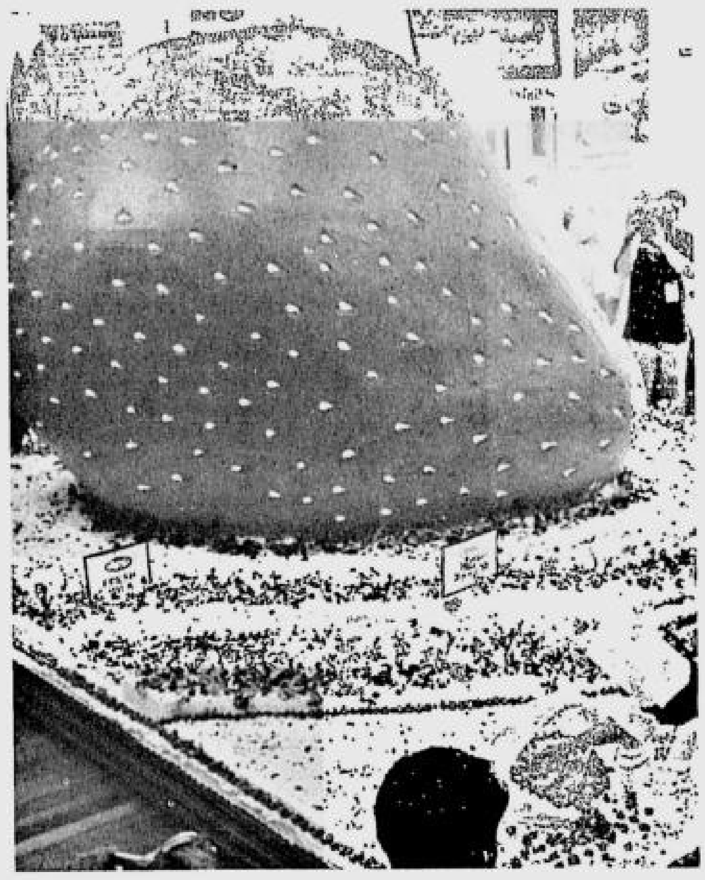
Some residents, however, were surprised when SMC began marketing La Trinidad's feat as the "Magnolia Strawberry Cake," after its brand food product.

"Why are they trying to commercialize this (festival) like Baguio's (flower festival)? We did not come here for Magnolia, we came here for our strawberries," a woman said while waiting for her turn to taste the cake.

The town produced the strawberries needed by the cake, while SMC supplied all the ingredients.

The cake used 537.5 kg of butter, 752.5 kg of white sugar, 967.5 kg of strawberry preserve, 645 kg eggs; 1,655 kg flour, 35.83 kg baking powder, 16.55 kg iodized salt, 516 kg fresh milk, 2.15 kg strawberry extract, 633.24 kg cream for icing, 211.08 kg fresh milk and 0.47 kg food coloring.

Each slice—at three inches long, 2.5 inches wide and 2.5 inches thick—was sold to the public at P10 each. *With a report from Frank Cimatu*



GIANT strawberry butter cake of La Trinidad Valley in Benguet hopes to land in the Guinness Book of World Records.

TOOTS SOBERANO

Alumni, city gov't clash over heritage building

By Tonette Orejas
City of San Fernando

FOUR years before the celebration of its centennial in 2008, the Pampanga High School (PHS) is again in the center of a conservation battle between local officials and alumni.

The city government, which recently passed a heritage ordinance, wants to conserve the main building, but the alumni want to demolish the building to give way to a new one.

To date, the PHS is one of the two remaining Gabaldon architectural structures and the central landmark of the American public education system in the province, Mayor Reynaldo Aquino said.

The Federation of the PHS Alumni Association, which is leading the rehabilitation of the 5.5-hectare campus, plans to demolish the structure and retain its facade.

Angelo David, federation president, said they wanted to build a new three-story structure on the site where the building now stands. Architect Yolanda David-Reyes, daughter of architect Norberto David (PHS Class 1935), designed, at no cost, the master plan.

"We want the new campus to serve the youth of Pampanga," David said.

The PHS campus on Teopaco Street has more than 11,000 students. It is the biggest public high school in Pampanga.

The school started with 30 students in 1908. Enrollment increased to 200 on its second campus at the old Philippine Constabulary compound near the provincial capitol.

Uncompromising

But the city government is uncompromising.

Aside from its architectural uniqueness, Aquino said the single-story building housed the original classrooms where the late President Diosdado Macapagal and other poor Pampanga students who became leaders in government, education, sciences, arts and culture used.

The facade and rear of the rectangular-shaped building have elaborate sculptures and relief of human figures. The first American principal, John Osborn, held classes in this building in 1912 or five years after the Philippine Commission approved Act 1801.

Nueva Ecija Assemblyman Isauro Gabaldon sponsored Act 1801 that set aside P1 million for the "construction of standard school buildings." Their common design led to a genre called the Gabaldon architecture.

"The city government would like to express its strong opposition to the construction of two additional floors to the PHS, or any other alteration that is not in line with the strict guidelines of heritage conservation," Aquino said in a March 8 letter to Dr. Belen Manzanero, chief of the Department of Education's city schools division.

The DepEd, the arbiter on the issue, has yet to announce its decision.

The city government rushed to save the PHS structure, after it lost the second PHS building to looters and another Gabaldon building to a fire last year.

DepEd action

According to Aquino, the DepEd has considered the PHS in the agency's restoration program. Education Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz sent a survey team to the city recently.

David said the federation was waiting for the DepEd's advice. The federation's board of directors, he clarified, has not yet finalized the plan.

"To us, the best interests of the students are our priority," David, 72, said. "We are open to change (in plans). We are not the ultimate judge in this (issue)."

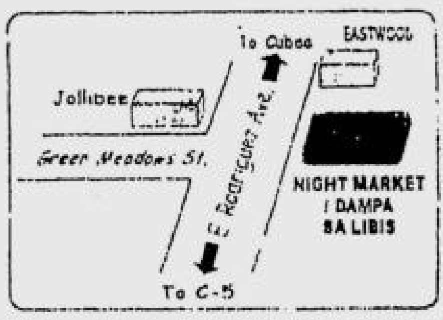
Architect Tirso Dayrit, an alumnus, cited safety reasons, saying the old structure could not support additional floors.

But Dayrit conceded that for sentimental reasons, the old building should be maintained to remind the youth that the PHS helped poor students rise in life and contribute to the nation's development.

DAMPA SA LIBIS
(Wet Market & Restaurant)
Your one stop shop of fresh seafoods, meat, fruits and vegetables

TIANGGE / NIGHT MARKET
AVAILABLE SPACE FOR LEASE
Spaces perfect for:
- RTW's & Apparel
- Shoes, Bags & Toys
- Cellphone Repairs & Accessories
- Novelty Items
- Gift Shop Items

Please call: 637-3301 or 637-3303 or Text at (0927) 261-8863
107 E. Rodriguez Jr., Ave. Libis, Quezon City (Facing Jollibee Green Meadows)

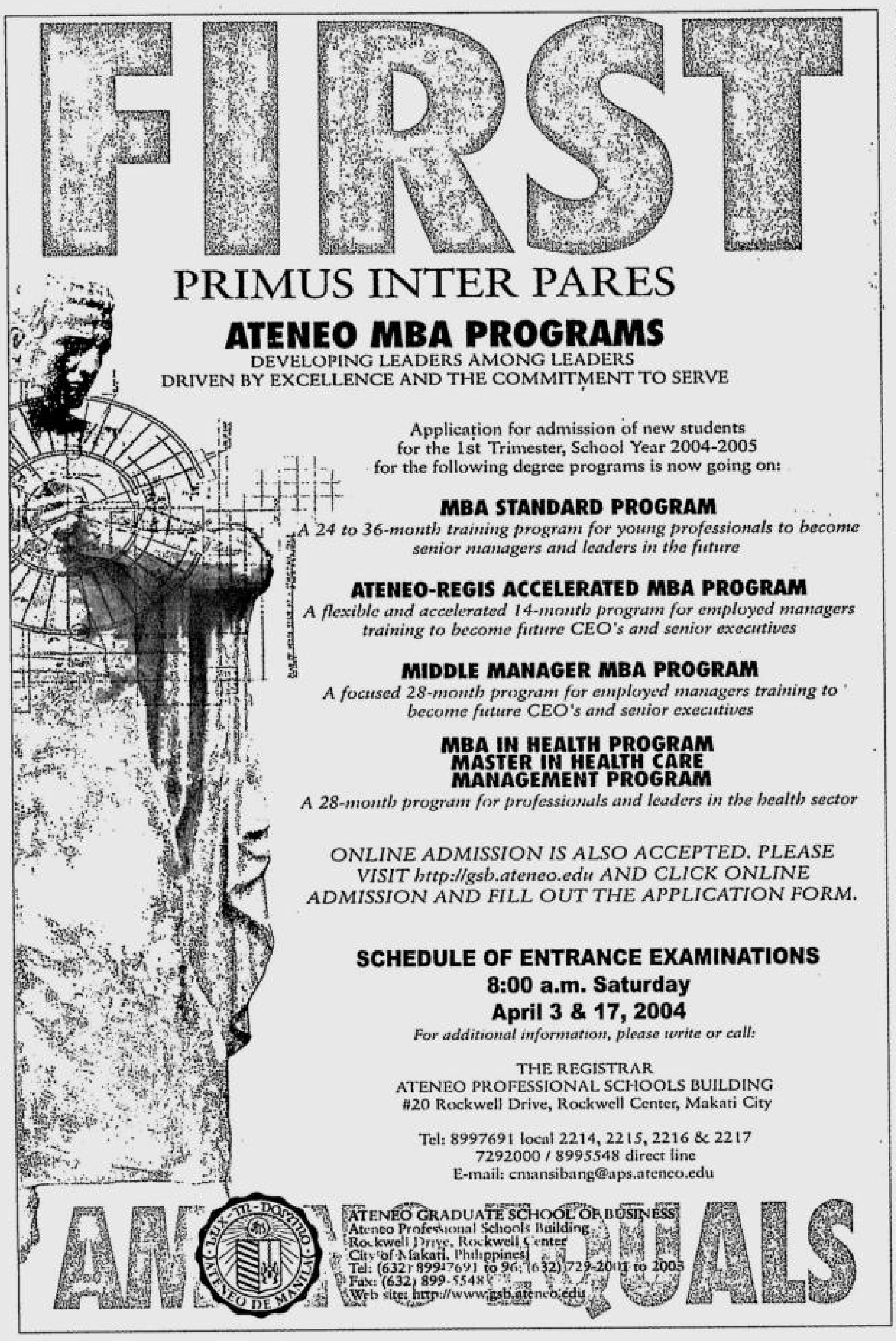


Labanan ang TB.
Makipag-ugnay agad sa...

TB NETWORK
KAKAMPI LABAN SA TB

Sila ang mga Health Workers.
Kasama ang PhilHealth, PhilCAT at Local Government Units.
Nagbibigay ng makabago, mabilis
at mas epektibong paggamot laban sa TB.
Kaya kung mahigit dalawang linggo ka nang inuubo, 'wag matakot.
Makipag-ugnay agad sa
TB Network ng inyong health center.

3 rebs burn bus of firm that won't pay 'tax'



FIRST

PRIMUS INTER PARES

ATENEO MBA PROGRAMS

DEVELOPING LEADERS AMONG LEADERS
DRIVEN BY EXCELLENCE AND THE COMMITMENT TO SERVE

Application for admission of new students
for the 1st Trimester, School Year 2004-2005
for the following degree programs is now going on:

MBA STANDARD PROGRAM

A 24 to 36-month training program for young professionals to become senior managers and leaders in the future

ATENEO-REGIS ACCELERATED MBA PROGRAM

A flexible and accelerated 14-month program for employed managers training to become future CEO's and senior executives

MIDDLE MANAGER MBA PROGRAM

A focused 28-month program for employed managers training to become future CEO's and senior executives

MBA IN HEALTH PROGRAM
MASTER IN HEALTH CARE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

A 28-month program for professionals and leaders in the health sector

ONLINE ADMISSION IS ALSO ACCEPTED. PLEASE VISIT http://gsb.ateneo.edu AND CLICK ONLINE ADMISSION AND FILL OUT THE APPLICATION FORM.

SCHEDULE OF ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS
8:00 a.m. Saturday
April 3 & 17, 2004

For additional information, please write or call:

THE REGISTRAR
ATENEO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS BUILDING
#20 Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City

Tel: 8997691 local 2214, 2215, 2216 & 2217
7292000 / 8995548 direct line
E-mail: cmansibang@aps.ateneo.edu

AMONG EQUALS

ATENEO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Ateneo Professional Schools Building
Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center
City of Makati, Philippines
Tel: (632) 899-7691 to 96; (632) 729-2001 to 2005
Fax: (632) 899-5548
Web site: http://www.gsb.ateneo.edu

All YES-O, STEP, YECS, science and environmental clubs officers and members, Student Government Organization officers, student leaders, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Campus Paper Editorial Staff and interested students, teacher-advisers, principals and education supervisors in all public and private high schools are invited to -

Join the.... Youth for Environment Summer Camp 2004

April 14-18, 2004, Teachers' Camp, Baguio City

Theme: Kabataa'y Lingkod ng Kalikasan para sa Sambayanang Nagkakaisa para sa Kinabukasan

Camp Courses:
- Environmental Leadership
- Earth Music Fusion
- Environmental Journalism
- Environmental Theater Arts
- The Green Environment
- The Blue Environment
- The Brown Environment
- Ecological Waste Management

Plenary Sessions:
- Vanishing Treasures And Bio-Diversity
- Ecological Governance
- Environmental Laws
- The Green Vote
- Youth Action for the Environment
- How to Form an Eco-Club
- Back to Basics: Care of the Earth, Care for the Children

Teachers' Session:
- Pedagogy of Environmental Education
- Geo-Hazards: Philippine Setting
- Ecological Waste Management
- Bio-Diversity and Protected Area Management

Camp Contests:
- Youthspeak: Inquirer Essay-Writing Contest
- On-the-Spot Logo-Making Contest
- On-the-Spot Poster-Making Contest
- Slogan-Making Contest
- SAYAWIT Para sa Kalikasan
- Sikali (Sigaw Kalikasan) Cheer and Dance Competition
- Extemporaneous Speaking Contest
- Environmental Quiz
- Environmental Games

Other Camp Features:
- Environmental Reflection
- Panata ng Kabataan sa Kalikasan

Youth for Environment Summer Camp
We are YOUNG and we care...

Interested applicants are requested to send their pre-registration form on or before **March 29, 2004** at the DepED-CSCA c/o **MR. JOEY G. PELÁEZ,** Chair, Yes Camp 2004, or fax at 636-3603/631-8495 or text 0927-2797644/0920-5099248/0919-3539382/0916-4697835. For more information, contact MR. GERALD ORTIZ of KASAMA, Inc. at 0918-2700798 or MS. MAGGIE DANGANAN of DENR-Special Concerns Office at 926-8346/927-6336. Registration Fee shall be paid during the Camp. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. (Reference, DepED Memorandum No. 23, s. 2004 dated January 16, 2004)

BUSINESS works DepED HARIBON FOUNDATION MIRIAM PEACE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Ad space donated by the Philippine Daily Inquirer

CEBU CITY—Three suspected communist rebels torched a bus of the Ceres Bus Lines on Sunday night in Dalaguete town, about 85 km south of this city.

Nobody was reported injured, as about 20 passengers were told to disembark before members of the New People's Army set fire on the bus at Sitio Magling, Barangay Mananggal, Dalaguete.

The passengers were later fetched by another bus of Ceres Bus Lines.

PO3 Christopher Requina of the Dalaguete police station said the three rebels were among the passengers who boarded from Cebu City. The bus was bound for Santander town, about 135 km at the south of Cebu.

Upon reaching Magling, one of the rebels pointed his gun at driver Tomas Caminero Bullecer and ordered him to stop the bus. The two others then told the passengers to disembark.

Requina said the three introduced themselves as NPA rebels and told the passengers that they had no other intention but to burn the bus.

After torching the bus, residents in the area told police they saw the rebels escape on board pump-boats for Bohol.

The crime scene is just a few meters from the shoreline and about two kilometers away from the town hall where the police station is located.

According to the police, several NPA guerillas waited for their three comrades on board the pump-boats.

The Ceres Bus Lines is owned by Vallacar Transit Inc. based in Negros Occidental. Several of its buses had been torched by the NPA after the company repeatedly refused to pay revolutionary taxes. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Farmer draws death for niece's rape

BACOLOD CITY—A regional trial court in Silay City, Negros Occidental, has meted the death penalty on a farm worker for raping the 12-year-old niece of his wife.

Judge Felipe Banzon also ordered Domingo Jaranilla Gallano, a cane hauler, to pay P100,000 in moral and exemplary damages to the victim.

Court records showed that Gallano raped his wife's niece inside their house in a sugarcane farm in Silay, 14.4 km north of this city, on Jan. 2, 2003.

The girl had been living with the Gallanos when she was still 7 months old. In fact, she had been treated as one of their children.

Gallano had pleaded not guilty and claimed that he was working as a cane hauler in a sugarcane field, about 4 kilometers from his house when the supposed rape took place.

In his decision, Banzon did not give weight to Gallano's alibi, saying his claim was not corroborated or substantiated by other pieces of evidence.

Gallano also failed to show the factual impossibility of his presence at the scene of the crime, the judge noted in his decision. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Gloria appoints new execs for Cagayan Valley

ILAGAN, Isabela — President Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed former justice secretary Silvestre Bello III and former Isabela Gov. Benjamin Dy as the presidential adviser and assistant secretary for Cagayan Valley affairs, respectively.

But reports here said Ms Macapagal's move to appoint key leaders in the region was an effort to court the support of influential politicians, like the members of the Dy family, especially former Governor Dy who was reportedly supporting the candidacy of actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Bello, regional chair of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, is also the chief negotiator of the government panel in the ongoing peace talks with the National Democratic Front.

Dy, who will serve as Bello's assistant, is the regional chair of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino of former President Joseph Estrada. Dy expressed his support for Poe when the actor campaigned in Isabela last month.

"This position is an additional workload for me because I and Ben (Dy) will work for the affairs of the region," Bello said.

He said they would focus on the promotion of the government's hybrid rice program and the eradication of illegal drugs and illegal gambling in the region.

"The President wants Cagayan Valley, especially Isabela, as the pilot area for the hybrid rice program of the government. We need to do it soon," he said.

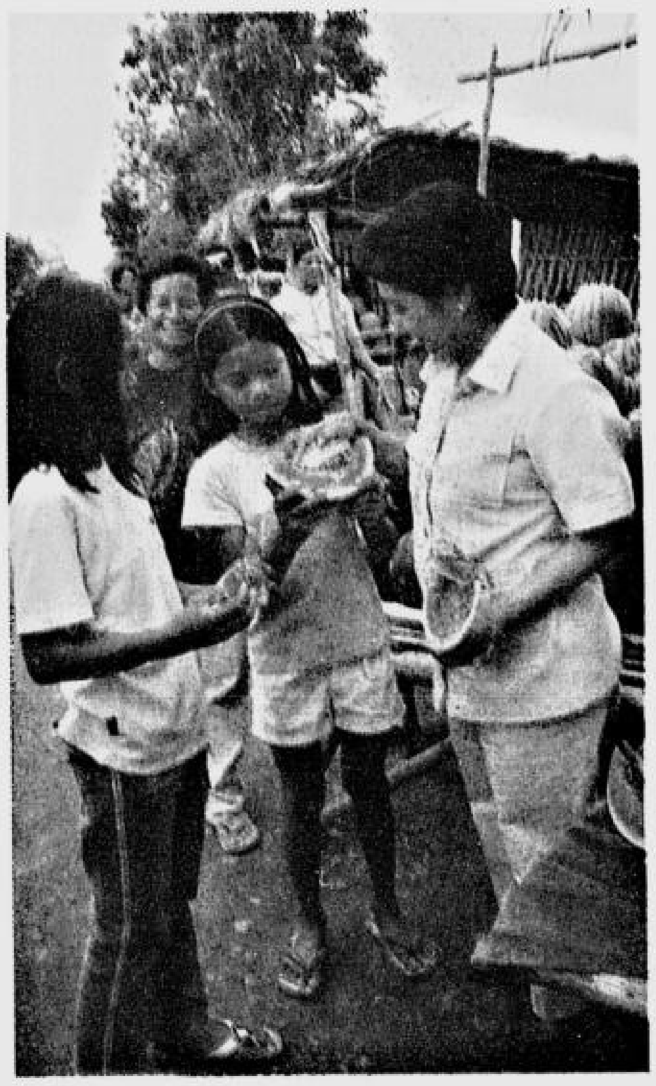
Bello said farmers in the region would be encouraged to plant hybrid rice to increase their yield.

He denied reports that Ms Macapagal appointed Dy to gain political support in the province.

Bello said Dy knows the concerns of the residents of Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and Batanes and this was the reason the President appointed him as assistant secretary for Cagayan Valley affairs.

Ms Macapagal also appointed Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano Jr. as Energy Regulatory Commission chair on Jan. 26, leaving Isabela's first district without a representative.

Albano asked Rep. Faustino Dy III of the third district to be the caretaker of his district. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



MELON GIRLS
President Macapagal-Arroyo takes a break from a campaign sortie in Iloilo to share the taste of summer and watermelons with these girls at a watermelon cart along the way. JERRY CARUAL/MALACAÑANG PHOTO

'Hanging bridge' falls; 2 men dead, 18 injured

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Two elderly men were killed and 18 others were seriously injured in a bizarre accident after a lightweight 25-foot high "hanging bridge" that the victims were passing through collapsed in Barangay Bacao 1 in Gen. Trias, Cavite, over the weekend.

Cavite police director Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales identified the fatalities as Norberto Manesca Sr., 67, and his brother Ponciano, 56.

He said the two died while being rushed to the Tanza Family Hospital.

Rosales said they suffered severe head injuries and serious bone fractures after they fell into the boulders on the river below the bridge at around 5:30 p.m. Sunday.

Injured were the older Manesca's son Norberto Jr., 33; Rolando Dones, 62; Erlinda Dimaisip, 48; Enrico Tacus, 60; Miguela Pakinggan, 44; Emilio Lunas; Edgardo Barbuco; Randolf Comia; Regalado Santos, 25; Mark de Ocampo, 19; Arman Lunday, 27; Ruel Saliba, 27; Christina Aseo, 19; Ruben Muton, 25; Nel Noneda, 21; Jayvee Monton, 19; Robel Montoya, 25; and Jervin Jimenez, 17.

Police said the victims, all residents of nearby Barangay Bacao 2, were rushed to a nearby hospital.

Rosales said the victims, many of whom suffered serious injuries in the heads and bodies, had just watched a soft ball game and were walking home when the accident happened.

"Apparently, the bridge's (loading) capacity was only a few hundreds of kilos. But the victims tried to cross the river all at the same time. The bridge simply could not support their weight," Rosales told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

It was not clear, however, if the bridge, which was said to be made of wood and ropes, had a sign to warn people about its capacity.

Police said the bridge that connected the two villages could carry up to five people at a time only.

Rosales said he immediately ordered all municipal police stations to coordinate with the local governments' engineering offices to head an inspection of all lightweight bridges all over the province to avoid similar accidents. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Graft charges …

From page A1

ing an alleged "midnight deal" with the Lopezes.

In the agreement, the government would no longer collect from Maynilad unpaid concession fees amounting to P8 billion. Critics said the government would also shoulder Maynilad's other debts totaling P10 billion.

Unwarranted benefit

"If that is not giving unwarranted benefit to Maynilad, I don't know what is," Mauricio told the INQUIRER. The deal, however, has yet to be approved by a regional trial court and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Another candidate, Sen. Loren Legarda, running mate of opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., denounced on Monday as a "midnight deal that stinks to high heavens" the government takeover of Maynilad. Legarda called the deal an "outright giveaway to private interests of public money."

Citing losses, Maynilad unilaterally decided to terminate its contract to distribute water to half of Metro Manila. But a Paris-based international arbitration panel ruled in November last year that Maynilad should pay the Manila Water Sewerage System (MWSS) more than P6 billion (now worth P8 billion) in concession fees.

Mauricio said Ms Macapagal and the two justice officials also gave Benpres and the Lopezes "advantage or preference in the discharge of their official, administrative or judicial functions through manifest partiality, evident bad faith or gross inexcusable negligence."

Denial

Ms Macapagal has denied that there was a bailout and that the Lopezes were getting favors from the government for allegedly supporting her candidacy. She said Maynilad would not get money under the rehabilitation plan for the water utility.

Administration critics have claimed the "bailout" was one of the government's concessions to the influential Lopez clan in exchange for allowing its ABS-CBN talent, Sen. Noli de Castro, to run as Ms Macapagal's vice presidential candidate. The ABS-CBN TV network is owned by the Lopezes.

In a statement, Ms Macapagal said the people would not shoulder the debts of Maynilad.

Oscar Lopez, Benpres chair, also denied there was a bailout, saying the Lopez Group will write off its equity investment of $80 million.

Teehankee defended the government plan to rehabilitate Maynilad, saying the government would not shoulder the water utility's P10-billion debt.

"The government will not assume (these debts). It will remain Maynilad's liability. There is no government guarantee," Teehankee said.

He explained that the government would not "assume" all of Maynilad's operations and that the water utility would "remain intact."

Write-off

Teehankee denied that the planned reorganization of Maynilad was a government bailout because the water utility's original investors—Benpres and the Suez Group—had agreed to write off their P6 billion investment in the company.

He also dismissed allegations that politics was involved in the deal. Teehankee said the government reached the agreement with the Lopezes because the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, which is hearing the rehabilitation petition of Maynilad, had set a deadline for a proposed settlement.

"It was the court that set the deadline on Tuesday to submit all comments for any revised plan," he said. "This is a proposal being submitted to the court."

Asked if Ms Macapagal was informed about the deal, he said: "No."

Teehankee said the agreement was reached after discussions among government representatives, creditor banks, the other parties, and former Central Bank Governor Jaime Laya, the government special adviser.

'Onerous'

The justice undersecretary said the agreement was even better than the original proposed plan, which he said was "onerous" to the government.

He said the original plan included provisions which said Maynilad's investors would pay only half of the P8 billion in concession fees they owed the government while retaining their investment in the water utility.

Once the plan is approved by the court and the SEC, the MWSS will have—through the Development Bank of the Philippines—four seats in Maynilad's seven-seat board, while local banks will have two. Suez will have one seat, while the Maynilad management will remain in place.

Teehankee said Maynilad's common share ownership would be 39 percent, MWSS; 19 percent, Suez; 2 percent, Metrobank; and 4 percent, employees.

Payment mode

He explained that the more than P8 billion in outstanding concession fees would be paid through $50 million (around P2.8 billion) from the performance bond with the balance coming from Benpres and Suez's P6 billion equity in the water firm.

Teehankee said the two groups agreed to write off almost P6 billion—consisting of their existing equity of P5.21 billion and P757 million of the P1.92 billion in receivables—in order to eliminate the company's capital deficit.

"A further P336 million of the receivables was granted by the sponsors to initially fund the Employee Share Ownership Plan while the remainder will be converted into a minority equity stake in Maynilad," he said.

Water rate increases

"With a strong financial position and new board members from local banks and the government, professional management is enabled, tariff increases can be tempered over time and, in the medium term, new investors can be attracted into Maynilad, enabling the government to fully reprivatize the operation," Teehankee said.

He said that while Maynilad would still have at least P10 billion in debts, it would have the "ability" to get itself out of its financial rut.

"It will have an ability to financially fund itself, so it will be a much healthier company which will then already be owned by its stakeholders, which at this time are the MWSS, DBP and the guarantors," Teehankee said.

Termination risks

He said the plan would avoid the risks that would result from the termination of the concession agreement with Maynilad.

The risks include service disruption, immediate and unpredictable increases in the water tariff, takeover costs, including the assumption of debt service by the MWSS and the government, and the difficulty of locating a qualified replacement operator to assume the concessionaire under Maynilad's "unattractive financial circumstances."

He said the "extrajudicial" solution was sanctioned by the International Arbitration Court.

GMA combative

In Leyte, Ms Macapagal yesterday said Poe and Legarda should explain how the two plan to ensure the efficient delivery of clean water to the people instead of attacking her on the government takeover of Maynilad.

"They should present their platform instead of making personal attacks," she said at a press conference in Carigara, Leyte.

At least 120,000 families in Metro Manila and 180 municipalities in the country still have no connection to clean water, according to the President.

She said the government takeover of Maynilad from the Lopez family was meant to protect the consumers.

Ms Macapagal, who had refused to respond to attacks by her opponents early in the campaign, was combative yesterday after she had been criticized for several issues, including Maynilad and the axing of comedy king Dolphy's show on ABS-CBN, the TV network of the Lopezes.

At a town hall meeting in the Sto. Niño College gym in Ormoc City, the President fired broadsides at Poe.

"No platform, no experience, refuses to debate, no town hall meetings," Ms Macapagal said of her principal opponent.

The President said a town hall meeting was a venue to hear and address the most urgent concerns of local residents.

"It is only us, Noli, who has a town hall meeting because we do not have to attack other candidates. We are the only ones who have ongoing projects and more projects to come," she said. ***With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana***

ANTI-POLL FRAUD ALLIANCE

Resist Alliance by the major opposition parties is launched on Tuesday to thwart all forms of electoral cheating. From left, ex-Rep. Crispin Beltran, Bro. Eddie Villanueva, Rep. Satur Ocampo and Raul Roco. Others present represented Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson. JOAN BONDOC

ABS-CBN tries to woo Dolphy back home

From page A1

"May Bagong Umagang Parating" in Libis, Quezon City.

Poe reportedly told Dolphy that he felt bad because he was the reason the comedian lost his TV show, the INQUIRER source said.

"*OK lang, pare, ang mahalaga manalo ka* (That's all right. Your victory is what's important)," the source quoted Dolphy as saying.

Formal launch

Even as ABS-CBN was reportedly courting Dolphy, a top executive of Associated Broadcasting Corp. Channel 5 yesterday said its management was in "serious discussions" with Dolphy, who played the role of Kevin Cosme in the long-running "Home Along Da Riles" (and its sequel "Home Along Da Airport"), for a high-profile transfer to the revitalized broadcast station now controlled by businessman Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco.

The actor is not allowed to discuss his pending departure from the network because of a stipulation in his contract preventing him from saying "anything derogatory" against ABS-CBN, the source said, adding the contract also prohibits him from resigning from the show.

Reached by the INQUIRER for comment, Maloli Manalastas, ABS-CBN vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations, said: "As earlier stated, ABS-CBN remains firm with our position that agreements between the management and the artist will be treated with confidentiality."

The ABC executive, who requested anonymity, said negotiations were being coursed through Dolphy's son, actor-director Eric Quizon, and that both sides were just waiting for the 75-year-old comedian's contract with ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.'s Channel 2 to end soon.

Dolphy's transfer would be announced next month at the broadcast station's formal launch, the executive said.

Despite Dolphy's unblemished record with the network, the Lopez-controlled ABS-CBN reportedly did not like the fact that one of their main stars was actively campaigning for opposition presidential candidate Poe.

The Lopezes are believed to be supporting the reelection bid of President Macapagal-Arroyo whose running mate, Sen. Noli de Castro, is a newsroom talent of the broadcast station.

ABS-CBN officials, however, insisted they did not meddle or influence choices made by their talents.

Poe's party, the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, however, said it had received reports that ABS-CBN officials had ordered its talents and contract stars to campaign only for the President and her K-4 ticket.

In a press statement, the KNP also noted that the network had never denied that it was planning to cancel Dolphy's show.

Ratings impact

Part of the ABC management's overall strategy is to utilize Dolphy in a totally different and fresh take than his most recent incarnation, the ABC executive added.

The source said the management considered Dolphy a unique case, adding that he is one of the most enduring institutions in show business and his presence alone would give ABC an immediate impact in the ratings game.

Several other ABS-CBN talents have reportedly sent feelers about joining ABC, but network officials said it would take its time going over the new applications.

Cojuangco spent over P2 billion when he took over ABC-5 last year, and has put up another P1 billion to beef up the network's facilities, talent and content.

The executive said the changes would not be immediate but would unfold in the next 12 months as it establishes itself as a force to reckon with in the television industry dominated by ABS-CBN and GMA Broadcasting Corp.

FPJ son's stepfather key supporter of actor

From page A1

(*"ayaw makipag-usap"*).

"They can't get to Ana Marin and the son, they're trying to get to Mr. Espiritu," Francisco said, referring either to the media or to Poe's political opponents, or both.

"He is a private person," Francisco said.

Regarding Espiritu's role in the CEPP, Francisco said: "It's not only (he) who makes the decisions for CEPP."

Francisco spoke with great reluctance, noting news reports about Espiritu may just be used to hit at Poe.

The CEPP came out in public late in February in support of Poe. Francisco said the club had been in existence since last year.

According to Francisco, Espiritu is past vice president of the Pasig Chamber of Commerce and member of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which has drafted a proposed platform for presidential aspirants.

Espiritu is said to be involved in, among other things, the real estate business. But there were no available details.

Documents showed that Espiritu, Ana Marin, Ronian Allan, Espiritu's son Vincent Paul and lawyer Raoul Creencia were incorporators of a firm called Lexxus International Network Marketing Inc.

Beauty and skin care

Lexxus is into the "business of trading of goods such as beauty, health and skin care products on wholesale/retail basis," the firm's incorporation papers said.

On its Web page, the CEPP describes itself as the "leading voice and distinct business organization representing the small- to medium-sized entrepreneurs and professionals pursuing business, commerce and investment facilitation, technical and technological cooperation, and employment creation as engines of Philippine economic growth and development."

Its "mission," the CEPP says, is to "conceptualize, create and support actions, movements, plans and activities for the advancement of the Philippine economy for the good of the greater majority."

Francisco said the CEPP is working to set up chapters in key municipalities in the country.

Its president, Patrick Caoili, is also general manager of Vulcan Industries and Mining Corp., he said.

5-yr public high school starts June

From page A1

DepEd officials say that 50 to 70 percent of incoming freshmen this school year may have to go through the five-year curriculum.

"We are having first year high school students who can't cope with the demand of the high school curriculum," said Corazon Echano, officer in charge of the curriculum development division of the DepEd's Bureau of Secondary Education.

"Our objective is to prepare them for the high school curriculum," she said. "Hopefully, this would improve the quality of our basic education graduates."

The program has been on the drawing board since 2002.

Public high school students outnumber those in the private schools. As of June last year, there were about 4.7 million students in 4,629 public high schools, while there were 1.2 million students in 3,261 private high schools. Public elementary and high school education is free.

Readiness test

Starting this coming school year, public high school freshmen will have to take the High School Readiness Test (HSRT).

The first HSRT is scheduled for May 24.

Depending on their test results, students will be segregated into the regular class and the bridge class.

The bridge class will only take up elementary English, Science and Math which, the DepEd said, were the most critical learning skills.

The Bureau of Secondary Education, headed by Dr. Lolita Andrada, collaborated with the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, and the Philippine Normal University in designing the special curriculum, which allows for independent or guided learning.

Must pass 3 subjects

The students will devote two hours to each subject.

DepEd officials pointed out that most countries in Southeast Asia had at least a 12-year basic education program.

The country currently has a 10-year program: six years of elementary and four years of high school.

Echano said the students would have to complete the one-year program and pass all three subjects.

"That's the only time they can move to the next level," she said. "If they don't pass, they have to undergo the same program until they do."

No extra cost

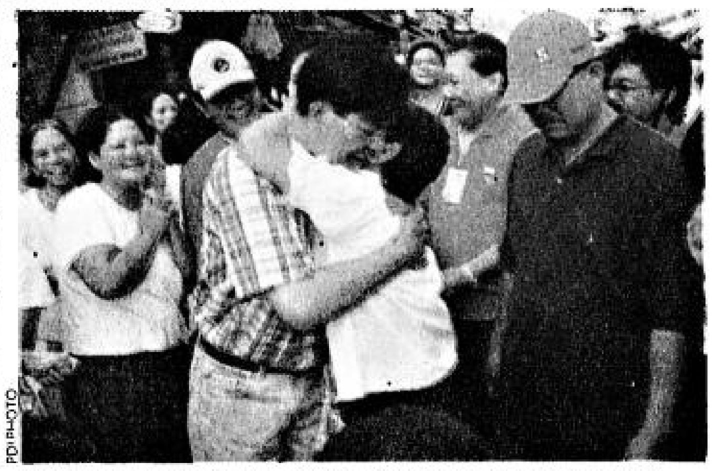
Except for the teachers' training and the modules, the bridge program will be at no extra cost to the DepEd, according to Echano.

The department need not hire new teachers because the same English, Math and Science teachers will handle the bridge class.

The Makabayan and Filipino teachers will also serve as advisers.

PDI PHOTO

WHEN it all began: Lacson files his certificate of candidacy, which was not news but created quite a stir as his heretofore invisible wife Alice was seen movie-star pretty by his side at the Commission on Elections last December.



PDI PHOTO

TONDO: The candidate as "Embraceable You," which has been observed as particularly affecting older women. One grandma in Baliuag, Bulacan, waited more than 4 hours for Lacson to show up.

LACSON FOR PRESIDEN
MOVEMENT

PDI PHOTO

LAS PIÑAS: One of the rare times that Lacson appears with a semblance of an entourage. He's flanked by his ticket's lone Senate candidate, Rep. Carlos Padilla (left) and Rep. Butz Aquino, LDP secretary general.

'White Knight' rides on firm leadership

PDI PHOTO

ROSARIO, PASIG CITY: Marketing himself at the public market, Lacson goes down the line to press the flesh and flash that slow, deliberate smile.

From page A1

Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) secretary general and Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino told Bulakeños when he introduced Lacson at a political rally in Baliuag, Bulacan, last month. There were other kidnapping rescues, other offers of "smiling" money which the white knight refused or returned.

The white knight, who wears a red plaid shirt (usually Ralph Lauren), light blue shades and gels his hair in campaign sorties, rides a white Lexus SUV with sun roof.

In slower-paced motorcades, Lacson would stick out his head up to his chest and raise a fist in the air—his *kamay na bakal* symbol for strong leadership against corrupt government officials. In faster-paced motorcades, he would sit at the back with the window rolled down and stick out a clenched fist.

Doesn't wave

Sorry, the man with the iron hand doesn't wave.

Is the Lexus bullet-proof? No idea. But there is a rosary wrapped around the handle bar just above Lacson's door.

The other vehicle, which carries his security and, according to sources, high-powered guns, is a black Lexus SUV. Ping travels with six bodyguards if the sortie is just within Metro Manila and 10 bodyguards if it's out of town.

There is another vehicle—a coaster this time, its body painted and postered with Lacson's face and clenched fist. Obviously outfitted by a devoted supporter, it is heavily tinted, powerfully air-conditioned, and contains a TV set, karaoke equipment and couch.

It's for Lacson's use, if ever he needs to rest in between sorties. It's been three weeks since the campaign started and Lacson has not sought refuge in it. But then summer is just around the corner.

Travels light

There is also a flatbed truck, which can be parked anywhere—at the town plaza, in a basketball court or in the middle of an open field—and converted into a stage, complete with Lacson poster backdrop, lights and microphone for a political rally.

Compared to other presidential candidates who travel with entertainers, a vice president and a handful of senators, Lacson shuns traditional song-and-dance numbers used to draw the crowds. He travels only with House Deputy Speaker Carlos Padilla, his lone senatorial bet. Good thing the man has a sense of humor and often tells crowds to please put his name under senator, not vice president.

"*Wala po kasing vice president si Ping. Iisang senador lang po ang line-up niya. Kapag isulat nyo ang pangalan ko sa vice president, sayang naman ang boto* (Ping has no vice president. He only has one senatorial bet. If you write my name under 'vice president' you'd be wasting your vote)."

People for Ping

To hustle up the crowds, they turn up the speaker volume and play Ping's political jingle over and over, until people would hear it in their sleep. They also keep the stage lighted.

At Lacson's political rally in Baliuag in late February, people showed up at the plaza as early as 3 p.m. Some came from nearby towns, some from farther away. They all waited to shake the hand of the man they've heard so many good things about.

"*Kelan ba siya darating* (When is he arriving)?" a grandmother in red asked. She came with two other *lolas*, also in red T-shirt (Lacson's campaign color) and a number of grandchildren who jumped up and down the plaza benches.

ILAGAN, ISABELA: Hand-holding and hugging take their toll. Gets first aid treatment after a house-to-house sortie.

"Seven p.m.," someone kindly volunteered the information.

"*Nakow, kanina pa kaming alas tres dito* (We've been here since 3 p.m.)," the *lola* said and started to explain why Lacson gets her vote.

What people want

"*Dalawang bagay lang ang hinihingi naming mahihirap. Mababang presyo ng bilihin at magandang kalye. Yung unano—ang tagal na pero hindi niya pinagawa ang kalye dito. Puro kurakot pa yung asawa* (Two things the poor wish for—low prices and good roads. The dwarf—has been there a long time, but she never had our roads fixed. The husband is corrupt)," she started her colorful spiel.

"*Si Ping, nalinis niya yung PNP. Napaliit niya mga t'yan ng pulis. Kung nagawa niya yun sa PNP, magagawa niya sa bayan. Anong oras na ba* (Ping was able to clean up the PNP. He was able to whittle down the waistline of policemen. If he can do this in the PNP, he can do it with the country. What time is it)?" she told one grandchild to buy her a snack because she had no plans of leaving her bench which was just in front of the stage.

'President has arrived'

Finally, at 7:45 p.m. there was a rumble of drums.

"*Parating na po ang presidente ng Pilipinas* (The president of the Philippines is arriving)," announced this man who had made boring speeches in an attempt to warm up the impatient crowd at the plaza.

The effect was electric. People started to crowd around the stage.

As the drums got louder— to the *ati-atihan* beat—lighted torches bobbed up and down in the distance, ushering Lacson's arrival. "Ping Lac-son! Ping Lac-son!" the crowd chanted and raised clenched fists to the beat.

13-town killer day

He walked unhurried to the stage—surrounded by welcoming Bulakeños and a sprinkling of security and staff—looking as fresh as when he first started out that morning. This was the last stop of a 13-town killer day, starting with a motorcade in Obando at 8 a.m. and ending with a political rally at the Baliuag town plaza at 8 p.m.

Lacson was joined onstage by Padilla, Rep. Butz Aquino, and Lacson's moneybag, San Juan Rep. Ronny Zamora.

Padilla gave a short speech, Aquino introduced Lacson who was calm and clear in his rhetoric: "Let us fight the K-4 of poverty, corruption,graft and crime! Let us sweep this government clean of Jose Pidals! What the country need is a strong leader to bring back peace and order and fight against corrupt government officials and criminal elements."

He talked about his platform of government. In sum, he promised to maintain transparency in government, use an iron hand to stop graft and corruption among government officials and to lead by example.

Breathtaking

Lacson's speech lasted 10 minutes. The rally was over in 30. It was breathtaking compared to Fernando Poe Jr.'s marathon four-hour rally, star-studded with *artista*, a vice president in the running, and 12 wannabe senators.

Then Lacson worked the crowd again—shaking hands, signing autographs and posing for pictures. One minute, he is surrounded by strangers who could vote for him or steal his wallet. The next minute, he is encircled by bodyguards and staff—safely supported *kapit-bisig* style.

DAVAO CITY: Convoy of supporters wears the campaign color of their candidate of choice. In slower-paced motorcades, Lacson usually sticks out his head up to his chest and raises a fist in the air, symbol of strong leadership. Rarely does he wave. It's just not his style.

KAWIT, CAVITE: Teacher's pet gets an emotional greeting during the 49th anniversary of the Spirit of 1964 class reunion from Natividad Enriquez, his Filipino teacher at the Imus Institute.

John O's son dragged into drug controversy

From page A1

gory Osmeña.

Found aboard the vessel MV Intra Blum, the shipment represented the biggest haul of regulated drugs in Central Visayas and would be worth about P3.6 billion when made into shabu, they said.

Osmeña, son of Sen. John Osmeña, has strongly denied reports in local newspapers alleging he had tried to intervene for the release of the shipment.

"I swear, may I not win another election if I'm lying. I'm not involved," said Osmeña, who is running for governor in the May elections.

The shipment, seized at the Cebu International Port, consisted of 60 drums of pseudo-ephedrine, a regulated drug that is an important component in the manufacture of shabu.

Customs Collector Billy Bibit said the shipment papers identified the consignee as one Mike Cummings of Coastside Venture Inc. with address at Unit E-19 Kings Warehouse Plaza on Hernan Cortez St., Mandaue City.

Empty warehouse

Bibit said the warehouse was empty when his men verified the address.

He told the INQUIRER that lawyer Salvador Panelo had called him, saying he was the lawyer of Cummings and that "his client would come out to bring documents to prove the shipment was legal."

Officials at the Philipine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said two persons allegedly close to Vice Governor Osmeña had been identified as among the officers of Coastside Ventures.

One was Joebert Cuestra, the vice governor's executive assistant and the manager of the defunct Occidental Cebu, a company which used to be owned by the vice governor.

Cuestra was also a member of the Civil Security Unit (CSU) when the vice governor's father, now Senator Osmeña, was acting mayor of Cebu City in 1986.

He was a contractual employee when John Osmeña was a senator but he later worked for the son when the latter was elected board member in 1998.

Another officer of the CVI was Teodora Limcangco, one of the incorporators of the Perdido Lex Foundation Inc., which had received at least P5 million from the discretionary funds of the vice governor to fund various computer programs in different schools.

According to a report from the Cebu Daily News, two Customs personnel alleged that the vice governor had contacted them and attempted to work out the release of the shipment.

The vice governor denied the report. He also stressed that it was just a coincidence that Limcangco was listed as incorporators of both Coastside Ventures and Perdido Lex.

Osmeña's lawyer Edgar Gica said attempts to link the vice governor to people behind the shipment were orchestrated by his political rivals to destroy the young Osmeña's bid for governor of Cebu.

Senator Osmeña said the latest controversy involving his son was hurting him.

"I am disappointed and very much hurt by these recent events. All my life, I have safeguarded our name. It has never been sullied by such controversies. I have done my best. I cannot do anymore," the senator said in a statement.

Both father and son are running in the May 10 elections as candidates of the K-4 Coalition.

A certification issued by the PDEA on Aug. 28, 2003 showed the name of Cuesta as company president.

The certification, signed by Supt. Primo Golingay, PDEA director of the compliance service, showed that Coastside is a registered license holder as an importer and distributor of controlled precursors and essential elements that include pseudoephedrine hydrochloride.

Why so large

It could not be immediately verified if Coastside Ventures had actually imported the chemicals and how much it was authorized to import.

"*Bakit ganun kalaki ang shipment?* (Why was the shipment that large?)" Bibit asked, when the INQUIRER contacted him.

Police Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay said any politician linked to the shipment must be investigated and must be invited for questioning.

If Coastside Ventures had a permit to import ephedrine, it had to be determined if the company was allowed to bring in such a huge volume, Aglipay said.

Bibit said that prior to seizing the chemicals, the PDEA tipped him off about an intelligence report that a shipment of pseudoephemedrine chemical would be arriving in the country.

Bibit immediately issued a hold order last March 8 and had the drums seized.

On March 16, PDEA agents arrived and conducted similar tests on the drums, which all tested positive for the regulated drugs.

GMA-7 television reported that Dirk Hulst, an American, paid the rent for the Coastside warehouse at the King's Warehouse Plaza in Mandaue City. ***With reports from Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau, and Michael Lim Ubac***

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

SUERTRES 0 3 7

SIX DIGIT (In exact order)
4 4 4 9 6 8

6/42 Luzon
2 7 21 27 28 32

Vis-Min
3 19 20 36 38 40

New SWAT teams deployed in Metro

By Tina Santos

A TOTAL of 111 members of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), who completed specialized training in Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), will receive a baptism of fire as they are set to be deployed around Metro Manila to provide security during the Holy Week.

The new graduates, most of whom are assigned at the Regional Special Action Unit, will be tasked to secure vital installations, including government establishments, oil depots, transportation and communication facilities, airports, seaports and bus terminals.

NCRPO Director Ricardo de Leon said some of the new recruits will also augment the different districts by manning other possible targets of terrorist attacks, such as malls, shopping and entertainment centers and parks.

He also expressed confidence that the two-month rigid training has equipped the trainees with the capability to respond to highly-volatile situations involving crime and terrorism.

Capable

"They have undergone training and are as capable as any experienced police officer of the PNP," De Leon stressed.

In simple commencement exercises held at the NCRPO headquarters in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig, the new members of the SWAT displayed their skills in their hostage crisis management, explosives and ordnance management, as well as enhanced capability in motorcycle-riding, close quarter battle and confidence firing.

Meanwhile, Northern Police District Director Marcelino Franco reminded the public to adopt their own security measures when they go out of town during the Holy Week.

Franco said families going on vacation might ask trusted neighbors to watch their house. *With a report by Edson Tandoc Jr.*

OPPOSITION senatorial candidate Alfredo Lim joins a group of young women who cut out a portion of the brandy ad on Roxas Boulevard. ERIK ARAZAS

Brothers in Binondo massacre get death

By Tarra Quismundo

TWO BROTHERS were sentenced to death yesterday for the killing of a Filipino-Chinese couple, their maid and two security guards in Binondo, Manila, in 1995.

In a 30-page ruling, Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Reynaldo Alhambra meted out the capital punishment on Alfredo Estrella and his brother, Noli.

Two other men, Danilo Quinabo and Romeo Truelda, were convicted as accessories to the murders and sentenced to six to 17 years in prison.

Mother's testimony

The Estrella brothers, Quinabo and Truelda were convicted on the testimony of Tui San, the mother of victim Edwin Keh.

Keh, 29, his wife Vivian, 28; maid Mary Ann Quinna, 18; and security guards Patricio Corpin and Bernardo Pastrana were killed in the robbery masterminded by the Estrella brothers on Sept. 7, 1996.

On that day, at about 2:30 a.m., the Estrella brothers, with Quinabo and Truelda, went to the Metalex Building on San Nicolas Street, Binondo, where the Keh's had a hardware store at the ground and second floors, and their residence on the third to fifth floors.

Alfredo managed to convince Corpin and Pastrana to allow him and his companions inside the building because he had worked as a security guard for the Keh's.

Once inside, Alfredo and his companions stabbed the security guards to death inside the garage.

They chanced upon Keh and forced him to take them to the upper floors, where they ransacked the rooms of the victims before fleeing with about P100,000 in cash and jewelry.

In her testimony, Keh's mother pointed to Alfredo as the man who held a knife to her son's neck while she handed over her money and valuables.

Fled to Cavite

The mother was hogtied but was able to free herself. She then discovered the bodies of the victims.

Later investigation showed that the Estrella brothers fled to Barangay Paliparan in Dasmariñas, Cavite, where they were arrested six days after the incident.

Quinabo and Truelda were arrested in Manila.

Alfredo and Noli claimed that they were at their house on Geronimo Street in Sampaloc, Manila, when the incident happened but the court gave more weight on the account of Tui San, who pointed to the brothers in open court.

METROBRIEFS

Drug suspects fall

FIVE suspected members of a big-time drug syndicate have been arrested in an entrapment operation last week by members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency. They were identified as Florencio Vidal, 47; Jemson Balonga, 33; Cesar Espinosa, 35; Brendon Mabunga, 29; and Rizalino Reyes, 29. PDEA Task Force Hunter head Reynaldo Jaylo said in a statement that the five were arrested in Quezon City on March 18 during an entrapment operation. Jaylo said his operatives got in touch with the suspects and made a deal to buy a kilo of shabu for P1.4 million. *Leila Salaverria*

Fake customers

THE WF and Money Changer shop at the corner of San Andres and Madre Ignacia Streets in Malate lost P480,000 in peso and dollar denominations when five men armed with handguns, broke into the shop at about 4:30 p.m. Monday. The police said that since the shop did not have iron grills, the suspects, who pretended to be customers, were able to enter it after breaking the glass window, holding the staff members at bay with their guns. The suspects immediately proceeded to the back of the office, where another staff member was counting the money to be stored. *Leila Salaverria*

Teener shot dead

AL-SHARY Ebale, 17, was shot dead allegedly by 18-year-old Roland Rosete, of Isla Liit, Baseco Compound, and seven other unidentified men, when he tried to confront them for mauling his 11-year-old brother. SPO4 Alfredo Salazar revealed that at about 9 p.m. Monday, Ebale and a friend went looking for Rosete to ask him why he mauled his brother. But during the confrontation, Rosete and his friends allegedly ganged up on Ebale and his companion. During a chase, one of the suspects pulled out a gun and shot Ebale. *Leila Salaverria*

2 killed in mishap

TWO PERSONS were killed Tuesday, while three others were seriously injured when the passenger jeepney they were on collided with a truck along Sumulong Highway in Antipolo City. Bonifacio Temeo, 24, and Allan Christopher, 19, died while undergoing treatment at the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center in Marikina City, the police said. Injured were Paulo Miranda, 18, Ryan Alberto, 21, and a Girlie Atienza. *Luige del Puerto*

'Kinse' ad controversy turns ugly

By Margaux Ortiz

TRUE to form, the country's so-called "Dirty Harry" did what he thought was the best way to deal with a hard stance—cut it out.

Alfredo Lim, who is running for senator under the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP), removed the word "Kinse" from one of the Napoleon Brandy billboards, which has been branded as offensive to women and children.

Lim, accompanied by fellow KNP candidate Boots Anson-Roa, went to the Napoleon Quince billboard along Roxas Boulevard in Parañaque at 10 a.m. and took drastic action.

Lim hopped on a crane and had himself taken up to the 50-foot high billboard.

He then cut out the word "Kinse" from the 4-meter by 8 meter advertisement, which originally said "Nakatikim ka na ba ng Kinse Años? (Have you tried a Fifteen-year-old?)"

Below, a group of teenage girls cheered.

In a statement, Lim said the billboard contained derogatory statement that "offends decency and good customs and is considered a crime against public morals."

Various groups have asked Napoleon to dismantle the billboards but it has refused, saying there was nothing wrong with its message.

In Quezon City, Louie Lacson, 15, said she had always feared men drinking liquor in the streets, especially after the "Kinse Años" ad came out.

"I am aware of the offensive depiction of the brandy ad," she said as she appealed to advertisers to be more sensitive in using ideas to promote their products.

Destileria counsel Bonifacio Alentajan condemned Lim's "destruction" of the Napoleon billboard in Parañaque City.

Alentajan said that they were preparing to file charges of malicious mischief and destruction of private property against Lim and Roa.

Alentajan added that they would also file a disbarment case against Lim, a lawyer.

"He should know better than to act like a tyrant—an aspiring lawmaker who is himself a lawbreaker," Alentajan stressed. *With Tina Santos*

Oops, sorry

THE STORY which appeared on Page A18 in yesterday's issue of the INQUIRER, titled "TV kids are poor listeners," was written by Dona Pazzibugan, not by Blanche S. Rivera.

MMDA plans to impose stiff fines vs drag racers

OFFICIALS of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority are considering stiffer fines for drag racers to discourage offenders from using the roads as their private racetracks.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said that drag racers are fined only P500 for dangerous violations or reckless driving.

He stressed that stiffer penalties could mean impounding of the offender's vehicle for at least a month, aside from the fines.

"Drag racing is considered a crime, especially when it involves tampering of plates and affects innocent motorists and bystanders," Vergel de Dios said.

He emphasized that the roads and streets are not venues for drag racing.

He added they would put up barriers on roads being used by drag racers.

These include Mindanao Avenue, Greenhills and White Plains, according to Vergel De Dios. *Margaux Ortiz*

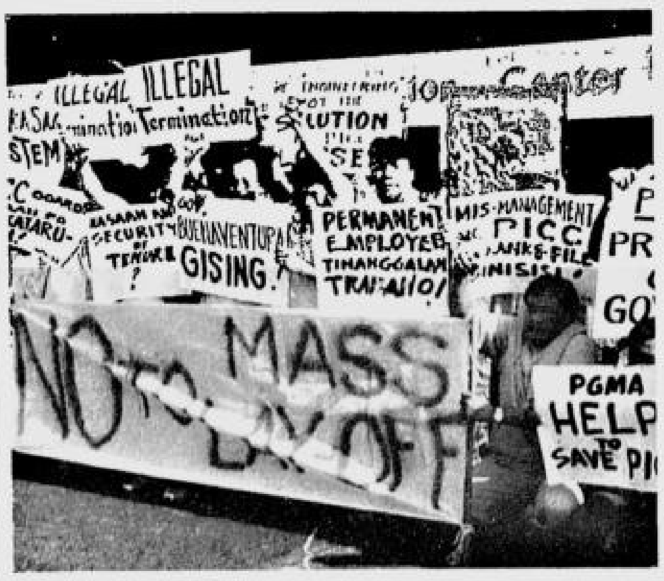
Japanese slain

A JAPANESE mechanical engineer turned jeepney operator was stabbed to death in Makati City early yesterday morning.

Isao Shiozawa, 42, a native of Niigata Prefecture, northern Japan, was found with nine stab wounds inside his bedroom at 4920-B Novaliches St., corner Kakarong St., Barangay Olympia, where he and his Filipino wife, Maria Liezel Vergara, were staying.

Vergara, 27, discovered the victim's body at around 4:30 a.m.

An hour earlier, the woman left Shiozawa inside their bedroom to collect money from their jeepney drivers in Manila. *Margaux Ortiz*



PICKET AT PICC
Employees of the Philippine International Convention Center stage a picket in front of their office Tuesday to protest what they described as their illegal termination. They said 66 positions were declared redundant by management recently, 64 of which were being held by permanent employees. ROGER MARGALLO

Playtime turns tragic for 3 kids

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

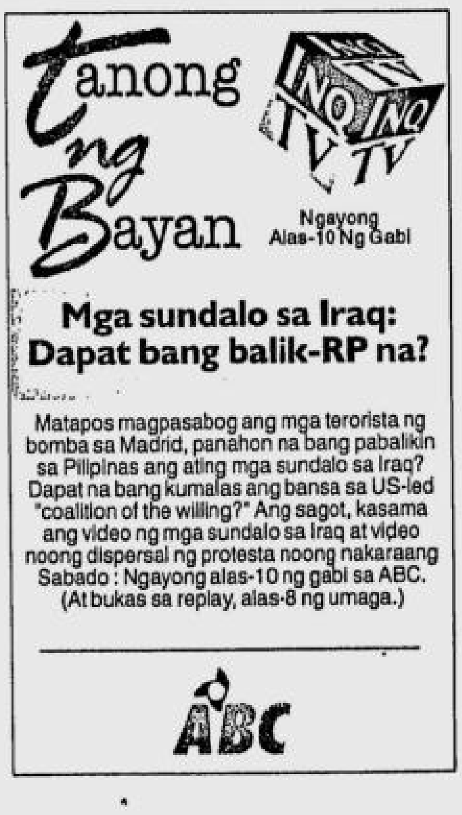
PLAYTIME turned tragic for three children in Malabon City yesterday after the pillbox they were playing with accidentally exploded.

Jeffrey Montecillo, 6, lost some of his fingers and sustained wounds in his body and legs, while his brother Jerome, 4, sustained wounds in his belly and legs. Their cousin Rica Nipales, 3, was hit in her arms, legs and right eye, PO2 Christopher Rodriguez said.

About 1 p.m., the three children were playing in Sitio 6, Barangay Catmon, Malabon City, when they saw a nearby wooden cart. In the cart, they saw a small plastic bag, PO3 Peter Rios told the INQUIRER yesterday.

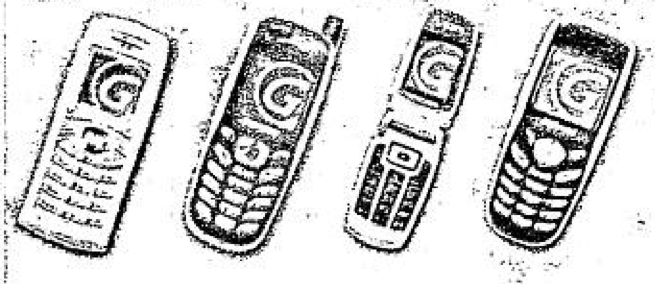
Not knowing the bag was a homemade pillbox, the children played with the bag until Jeffrey got a stone and started beating the bag, triggering the explosion.

The children were brought to the Tondo Medical Center, where they are undergoing treatment.


Tanong ng Bayan
INQ TV
Ngayong Alas-10 Ng Gabi
Mga sundalo sa Iraq: Dapat bang balik-RP na?
Matapos magpasabog ang mga terorista ng bomba sa Madrid, panahon na bang pabalikin sa Pilipinas ang ating mga sundalo sa Iraq? Dapat na bang kumalas ang bansa sa US-led "coalition of the willing?" Ang sagot, kasama ang video ng mga sundalo sa Iraq at video noong dispersal ng protesta noong nakaraang Sabado : Ngayong alas-10 ng gabi sa ABC. (At bukas sa replay, alas-8 ng umaga.)
ABC

PRO-GYM
#1 IN FITNESS EQUIPMENT
CLUB EDITION 2nd GENERATION
ENGINEERED AND DESIGNED FOR HEALTH CLUBS, COMPANY GYMS, CONDOMINIUMS, RESORTS, HOTELS & SCHOOLS AT FACTORY DIRECT PRICES.
SELECTORIZED & PLATE LOADING
CALL US FOR A CATALOGUE, PRICE LIST OR FOR CONSULTATION IN PLANNING YOUR GYM.
HOME GYMS
MULTI-WORKOUT COMPACT GYMS
2 Complete Machines with over 30 uses. CHEST, ARMS, SHOULDERS, BACK, LEGS, THIGH & BUTTOCKS.
P19,950. TOTAL GYM 1
P25,500. TOTAL GYM W/PECK DECK
5 YR. LTD WARRANTY
MAXI BENCH P5,750. (W/O Attachments)
BEST SELLER
ARM CURL
LAT PULLDOWN
The all-adjustable bench. FLAT, INCLINE, DECLINE & UPRIGHT. Also features Leg Curl/Extension & Dipping Bar. 2" Sq. Steel. Optional Attachments sold separately.
ARM CURL...P950. LAT PULLDOWN...P1,950.
MEGA BENCH 1.5" Sq. Steel P4,250. (W/O Arm Curl) P4,950. W/ Arm Curl
MULTI-BENCH 2" Sq. Steel. Power Rack. Bench. Legs Lats. Arms. P17,500.
TRAINING BENCH 1" Round Tube P2,950.
DUMBBELL SET (25 lbs.) 8 plates P850.
BARBELL SET (50lbs.) 8 plates P1,340.
CALL US FOR COLOR LEAFLETS ON COMPACT GYMS, BENCHES OR CARDIOS.
FREE: WEIGHT TRAINING BOOKLET, EXERCISE CHART and FLEXIBILITY CHART on all purchases. This valuable reference introduces you step by step to the world of Fitness and Bodybuilding
SIT-UP BOARD P1,800.
Multi-purpose board for Crunches, Leg Raise & Sit-ups.
CARDIO
FLIP TRAXX P7,890.
MAGNETIC BIKE P7,790.
MAXI TRAXX P10,500.
MORE MODELS AT BEST PRICES AT OUR CATALOGUE.
TO ORDER, CALL: SEPTEM, INC. 88 HALCON ST. QUEZON CITY
742-18-08
741-59-74 FACTORY
743-13-49 OUTLET
FAX: 742-61-59
progym@itextron.com
PLS. ADD MIN. OF P200. FOR DELIVERY & HANDLING W/IN M. MANILA

higher degree©
AB ECO 2004
BS BIO 2004
Ⓖ Flex 5000



SAMSUNG C100
FREE on Ⓖ Flex 1200
or Ⓖ Talk 1200
- 65K colors
- Slim design

SAMSUNG X600
FREE on Ⓖ Flex 2500
or Ⓖ Match 2500
- Digicam with flash
- 65K colors
- Polyphonic

SAMSUNG E700
FREE on Ⓖ Flex 5000
or Platinum Plan
- Multi-shot
- Dual screen

SAMSUNG X100
FREE on Ⓖ Flex 2500
or Ⓖ Match 2500
- MMS capable
- 65K colors
- Polyphonic

SAMSUNG

Give your grad a Ⓖ Flex Plan and the chance to win a ₱1M shopping spree at Rustan's.

Give your grad the plan that meets all her new needs: the fully-consumable Ⓖ Flex Plan. Plus, when you choose a Ⓖ Flex – or Ⓖ Plan – with a free or discounted Samsung phone, you get a chance to enjoy great prizes!

1st prize: ₱1M Rustan's Shopping Spree **2nd prize: ₱30,000 Rustan's Gift Certificate**

3rd prize: ₱10,000 Rustan's Gift Certificate

With a brilliant deal like this, no wonder more people prefer Globe Plans above all others.
Visit the nearest Globe Business Center or Hub today!

See flyers for details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0593, Series of 2004. Promo from March 17 to April 18, 2004.

Yes! I want my Globe Handyphone delivered to me FREE!

CALL 751-8888 OR FAX TO 739-9999 OR VISIT www.hub-eshop.com to order.

NAME ______ Last Name First Name Middle Name
HOME ADDRESS ______ No Street Barangay
______ City Zip Code
BIRTHDAY ______ mm/dd/yy SPOUSE NAME ______
HOME CONTACT NO. ______ MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME ______
OFFICE/COMPANY NAME ______

BUSINESS ADDRESS ______ No Street
______ Barangay
______ City Zip Code
BUSINESS TEL NO ______
PREFERRED BILLING ADDRESS ☐ HOME ☐ OFFICE
CREDIT CARD NAME
☐ BPI ☐ Citibank ☐ Diners Club
☐ Equitable ☐ Unicard ☐ Standard Chartered
CREDIT CARD NO. ______
EXPIRY DATE ______ 3 Digits at the Back of Card ______

☐ ONE-TIME PAYMENT ☐ INSTALLMENT
Installment Term ☐ 3 ☐ 6 ☐ 9 ☐ 12 months
CREDIT CARD BILLING ADDRESS
☐ HOME ☐ OFFICE ☐ OTHERS ______
Choice Handset ______
Choice Plan (ex.G-Flex 1200) ______
SIGNATURE ______
DELIVERY DATE / TIME ______
*complete this form and fax it to us together with the application requirements and a photocopy of your credit card showing both sides.

The new all-consumable Ⓖ Flex Plan!

	Consumable Amount	Free SMS	GHP-GHP	GHP-non-GHP
Ⓖ Flex 800	P 800	200	P 6.50	P 7.00
Ⓖ Flex 1,200	P 1,200	250	P 6.00	P 6.50
Ⓖ Flex 1,800	P 1,800	300	P 5.00	P 6.00
Ⓖ Flex 2,500	P 2,500	350	P 4.50	P 5.50
Ⓖ Flex 3,500	P 3,500	400	P 4.00	P 4.50
Ⓖ Flex 5,000	P 5,000	400	P 4.00	P 4.50

	MSF	Free Text	Free Mins.	GHP-GHP	GHP-non-GHP
Ⓖ Text	P 500	500	20	P 6.00	P 7.50
Ⓖ Mix	P 800	350	100	P 5.50	P 7.00
Ⓖ Talk	P1,200	350	210	P 5.00	P 6.50
Ⓖ Talk Plus	P1,800	450	350	P 4.50	P 6.00
Ⓖ Match	P2,500	550	500	P 4.00	P 5.50
Ⓖ Max	P3,500	650	750	P 3.50	P 4.50
Platinum	P5,000	650	1,100	P 3.50	P 4.50

How to subscribe: Bring valid ID, proof of billing address and financial documents. For switchers, present 2 paid non-Globe bills for the last 3 months together with the old GSM SIM. Current charges in the bill should total the minimum required amount of your desired package. Conditions: Subject to a two-year subscription lock. Closure of plan under 24 months is subject to a termination fee of P10,000, or handset price per line, whichever is higher. Application is subject for approval.

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

SPORTS TV Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL: NBA-Pistons vs Hornets; 9 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—Central Division rivals Detroit and New Orleans slug it out for playoff position.

NBA Greatest Games-Pacers vs Lakers, Game 6, 2000 Finals—Los Angeles captures its first of three straight titles as Shaquille O'Neal puts on another dominant performance against Indiana.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

THINNING HAIR?
Call Svenson at 819-3336

Is Pacquiao durable enough? /A26

Gopez: Dumlao bloc out to seize power

THE NATIONAL Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) yesterday accused one of its directors as among the perpetrators of a destabilization plot to usurp power.

NGAP secretary general Benny Gopez, speaking at the PSA Forum, said Andy Dumlao is one of those responsible for the power grab attempt from the legitimately installed leadership in the country's governing body for golf.

Gopez scored Dumlao for "his careless and baseless statements" about an alleged amnesty in place to bail out members and make them active NGAP members again.

FELICIANO

Dumlao, for his part, said his appeal to unify the local golf community has been misinterpreted. He had earlier written NGAP president Rod Feliciano asking him to evaluate the benefits of an absolute amnesty which would allow more clubs to join the NGAP elections set on April 26.

"I think this is just a case of some people not liking or refusing to listen to the message, so the messenger was shot instead," Dumlao said.

Dumlao met with Feliciano and five other directors in an emergency meeting yesterday to reiterate his plea only to call it later as an "exercise in futility."

"The papers had extensively quoted Dumlao as saying the NGAP has a P10,000 amnesty (fee) for every member club to reactivate its NGAP membership if they had been delinquent with their annual dues. That's a bare-faced lie, of course the P10,000 that Dumlao has been peddling all along is the admission fee for new members. I wonder where he got that crazy idea," Gopez said.

Feliciano said they cannot allow "dark forces to destabilize the NGAP leadership." *With a report from Jong Arcano*

Jakarta halts Tagaytay; Guangzhou still ahead

Standings after 4 rounds:

12 points—Guangzhou (China); **10**—Tagaytay, Mandaluyong, Pasay, Jakarta (INA), Samarinda (INA); **9.5**—Tehran (IRN); **9.0**—, Pavlodar (KAZ), Kuala Lumpur (MAS), Kanchipuram (IND); **8.0**—Sydney (AUS), Tanauan; **7.5**—Sanaa (YEM), Doha (QAT), Dubai (UAE); **7.0**—Ho Chi Minh (VIE); **3.0**—Hong Kong, Macau; **2.5**—Bandar Seri Begawan (BRU).

TAGAYTAY—Jakarta held host Tagaytay to a 2-all standoff yesterday to create a five-way logjam for second place behind leader Guangzhou after four rounds of the 14th Asian Cities Chess Championship at the Tagaytay International Center here.

Grandmasters Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio split the point with International Master Susanto Megaranto and Purnama Tirta Chandra on boards 1 and 2, respectively, but fellow GM Bong Villamayor absorbed a crushing defeat at the hands of IM Sittanggang Salor on board 3.

IM Master Jayson Gonzales saved the day for Tagaytay. Using his pet Alekhine Defense, Gonzales subdued GM Edhi Handoko in 31 moves on board 4.

The result allowed Mandaluyong and Pasay, as well as the second Indonesian squad, Samarinda, to catch Jakarta and Tagaytay in second place on 10 points, two behind Guangzhou.

The Chinese fortified their lead by brushing aside Mandaluyong, 2.5-1.5.

Idelfonso Datu gave Mandaluyong its only full point by beating fellow IM Yu Shaoteng in 54 moves of a Reti Opening.

On board 1, IM Mark Paragua drew with IM Liang Chong, the tournament's highest rated player, but IMs Nelson Mariano and Richard Bitoon lost to GMs Li Shilong and Liang Jingron, respectively.

Mandaluyong earlier pulled off a 2.5-1.5 conquest of defending champion Pavlodar of Kazakhstan.

FOR MEN ONLY
LEE MF-Rhino Brand
REVITALIZE YOUR SEX LIFE
LEE MF-Rhino Herbal Tea for Men is a totally natural product containing herbal formulation from ancient China used by royal families for many generations. It will enhance your sexual desire and satisfaction in every cup. An inexhaustible sexual performance giving one a heavenly joy.
Quickie Pack of 3's
Box of 30's
Uulit ka pa!
再來一杯!
BFAD FR-36127
Available at mercury drug and other supermarkets and drugstores

SBMC
SUBIC BAY MOTORS CORP.
with Auction World Co. Ltd. Japan
Bid The Best Of Subic
APRIL 17 & 18, 2004
INSPECTION DATES:
APRIL 11, 14, 15 & 16, 2004
TRUCKS, SUV's, PASSENGER VANS
Get a different auction experience!
Top quality items
Complete documents
Professional service
No minimum bids
No buy backs
And many more items to choose from
BLDG. 1457 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE 2222
TEL. NO's.: (047) 252-1260 • 252-1263 - 64 • FAX NO.: (047) 252-1259
Website: www.sbmcauctions.com • E-mail: sbmcawc@info.com.ph

TOYOTA LAND CRUISER VX
FUSO TRACTOR HEAD (TWIN TURBO)
ISUZU ALUM WING VAN (GIGA TYPE)
ISUZU FORWARD DUMP TRUCK
ISUZU FORWARD REFRIGERATED VAN
Also available LOCALLY ACQUIRED VEHICLES
ISUZU M.U. PICK-UP
TOYOTA HI-LUX SURF
TOYOTA HI-ACE (SUPER CUSTOM)
MITSUBISHI DELICA
ISUZU 6W 8STUD ALUM VAN

Confessions is available at your favorite record stores nationwide, exclusively distributed by BMG Record Pilipinas featuring the new songs "Yeah" and "Burn".

SMART Buddy Pre-paid
downloads zed newlist
Usher in a new groove.
Get freaky with soulful new jams and other fresh vibes that will surely add flava!
Title: Nice And Slow Artist: Usher Keyword: NICESLOW
Get the hottest ring tone automatically delivered to your cell phone weekly. Type POWTONE and send to 288
Featured tone of the week: Red Blooded Woman by Kylie Minogue. Exclusively available via POWTONE.
CONFESSIONS
USHER
BMG PHILIPPINES

CAL GAL
CAL GUY
Get a different "girly" calendar logo everyday!
Get a different "guy" calendar logo everyday!
Just send CALGAL to 288
Just send CALGUY to 288
P5 per daily delivery of logo.

How to download a logo, ring tone or picture message:
1 TYPE IN KEYWORD EX. LOGO CONFREND, TONE MILKSHAKE, OR PIC GALING
2 Send to 288.
3 Save upon receiving logo, ring tone or picture message.
www.smart.zed.com

To send a logo, tone or picture message to a friend, type <keyword> <cell phone number> and send to 288
To send a logo, LOGO CONFREND 09181234567.
To send a tone, TONE MILKSHAKE 09181234567.
To send a picture message, PIC GALING 09181234567
To download all these from your SMART Super SIM, simply go to the SMART Menu, select SMART zed and then select My Favorites. Just click on the service you wish to download. It's so easy! Logos, ring tones and picture messages are supported by selected Nokia handsets. **Also available to Talk 'N Text subscribers.** P15.00 for every successful download. Download now! Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, text us at 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Note: In order for you to identify which musical work the ring tone in question is based on, we have, in addition to the song title, referred an artist who has made the song well known. The artist in question has not participated in the production of the ring tone.

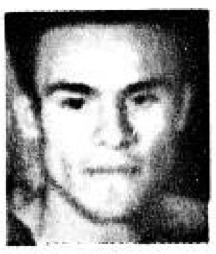
SMART Simply Amazing!

Traffic, traffic, everywhere.
DON'T WORRY, DRIVE HAPPY.
PETRON Ultron with TS³
The Ultimate Release from Engine Stress. From Petron.
AVAILABLE IN TOURING, EXTRA, RALLYE, RACE.

High-altitude training for Manny's foe

ANTICIPATING the most difficult fight of his career, reigning WBA/IBF featherweight king Juan Manuel "Dinamita" Marquez of Mexico has added high-altitude training to his regimen more than two months before he tangles with Ring Magazine featherweight ruler Manny Pacquiao on May 8 at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Marquez (42-2, 33 KOs), accompanied by trainer and manager Nacho Beristain, is now training at the Volcan Nevado de Toluca, some 12,800 feet above sea level where he runs eight km in the morning and then works out at an improvised gym in the area.


MARQUEZ

After a hard training the other day, Marquez weighed in at 60 kg, three above the regulatory 57.152-kg (126-lb) featherweight class, and indicated he is not having any weight problem whatsoever.

Marquez trains with Melchor Cob Castro, the southpaw Mexican who will challenge compatriot Jorge Arce for the WBC 108-lb title on April 24 in Chiapas, Mexico.

From the Toluca mountains, Marquez will return to the Romanza Gymnasium, where he does most of his preparation under Beristain.

Meanwhile, Trainer of the Year awardee Freddie Roach said he is totally focused in trying to "get the job done" as he prepares Pacquiao (38-2-1, 30 KOs) for the hard grind against Marquez.

"I like the kid a lot. He's a good kid. I think he's a bit naive sometimes. Pretty much right now my job is to get him ready for the fight against Marquez. That's going to be my duty and that's as far as I'm going to go this time," Roach told Maxboxing. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Shell-shocked T'chargers up against Tigers

STANDINGS	W	L
San Miguel	6	0
Alaska	5	1
Talk 'N Text	4	2
Red Bull	3	2
Coca-Cola	3	2
Ginebra	3	3
Purefoods	2	4
FedEx	1	4
Shell	1	4
Sta. Lucia	0	5

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:45 p.m.—Shell vs Coca-Cola
7:10 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Sta. Lucia

ROB Duat of Alaska takes care of the rebound against Talk 'N Text. The Aces won, 90-73.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

SHELL tries to cope with the unceremonious dismissal of American coach John Moran when it tackles Coca-Cola today in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Turbochargers (1-4) hope to arrest a three-game skid under acting coach Jig Mendoza but are the decided underdogs against the Tigers (3-2) at 4:45 p.m.

Barangay Ginebra (3-3) plays its second game under new coach Siot Tanquincen in the 7:10 p.m. mainer against a winless Sta. Lucia squad.

Tanquincen was humbled by Red Bull in his first game as replacement for Allan Caidic and he faces a similar daunting task with the Realtors desperate to end their losing streak.

Under fire from the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines and criticized for the unprecedented benching of top rookie draftee Rich Alvarez in his first game, Moran was finally sacked Monday by Shell officials unhappy with the way the Turbochargers lost to the FedEx Express in overtime Saturday.

Mendoza, Moran's deputy, will call the shots while Shell tries to find a replacement from a short list headed by Leo Austria.

Meanwhile, the BCAP scored yet another victory in its fight to boost the cause of local coaches when the Court of Appeals upheld its case against American coach Bill Bayno.

BCAP president Chito Narvasa said the CA had recently reversed a decision by the Department of Labor and Employment allowing Bayno to secure a work permit in 2002. *June Navarro*

UAAP honors top badminton, football stars

By Trina Ibarle

NATIONAL badminton player Lloyd Escoses of Far Eastern and ladies football ace Marielle Benitez of La Salle were honored as top athletes of the 66th Universities Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) during its Awards Night Monday at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater of Ateneo in Loyola, Quezon City.

The 23-year-old Escoses, main cog of the Tamaraws' champion badminton team for the second straight year, was voted top male athlete by the UAAP board on the basis of his athletic performance, academic ability and international exploits.

"This has been my year. My hard work has been rewarded," said Escoses, an Economics scholar, who reached the singles quarterfinals of the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

Benitez won the top female athlete award by scoring the goal that sealed La Salle's victory in football. A Rookie of the Year awardee in 1998, Benitez also saw action for the RP team in the last SEA Games.

Honored as top junior athletes were chesser Jed Angelo Magat of National University and swimmer Lea Coline Langit of Santo Tomas.

Meanwhile, La Salle promises a better sports season as Ateneo turned over the hosting duties to the Green Archers for the 67th season.

"We promise a better season, a clean league with no controversies, and better athletes," said DLSU athletic moderator Danny Jose after receiving the UAAP banner from Ateneo athletic director Jose Capistrano during the turnover ceremonies.

SPORTSWATCH

Taal Cooking Oil five sinks Navy

TAAL Cooking Oil outsteadied Navy in the homestretch to win, 94-89, and fortify its lead in the NBDL (National Basketball Development League) tournament Monday at the UM gym. Veterans Nani Epondulan and Rodel Manuel struck hardest in the closing minutes to lift the Cooking Oil Masters of national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla to their third straight victory in the seven-team tourney organized by Ted Magno. Epondulan and Manuel pumped in 18 and 17 points, respectively, as Taal Cooking Oil prevailed in the endgame after a 42-42 halftime deadlock. Alex Wang's Wangs Ball Club subdued Air Force, 104-95, to move up to second place at 2-1. Action resumes tomorrow with Wangs facing MICTS at 5 p.m. and Navy taking on St. Clare-Indos Strip at 6:30.

PBA teams up with IMG for SM mall show

IMG, the world's biggest sports marketing company, and the Philippine Basketball Association have set up interactive booths at various SM malls to give young fans the chance to interact with their cage idols. Organized by PBA Properties, the league brings to SM malls a touring display that includes a hand-and-shoe print and photo galleries, a giant inflatable goal, a basketball court and souvenir items, including jerseys of the country's top cagers. More than 6,000 fans visited the PBA booths on the first day, said IMG managing director Princess Galura who guested at yesterday's PSA Forum sponsored by Agfa Color and Red Bull at Manila Pavilion. The PBA interactive event areas are at SM malls in Fairview (March 22-28), North Edsa (March 27-April 4), Marilao (March 30-April 4), Sucat (April 12-18), Manila (April 12-23), Southmall (April 19-25), Sta. Mesa (April 24-29), Pampanga (April 27-May 9) and Bacoor (May 20). Other sports on tap are badminton, taekwondo, football, pump fest boulder (mountain climbing), table tennis and fencing.

Pavillar makes host Bacolod proud

BACOLOD— Hometown pride Genesis Pavillar pulled off a 6-1, 6-2 win over Ralph Pilares, and then followed it up with a 6-1, 6-7, 7-6 (7-3) conquest of fancied Akio Sy of Manila on Sunday to emerge as one of the three double titlists in the rain-hit 2004 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop at the Negros Occidental Tennis Association here. Pavillar bagged the unisex 10-under and boys' 12-under division trophies and shared the limelight with fellow champions Gerard Bergavera, Arnold Rodriguez, Martina Guba, Taoyee Tan and Ellaine Rodriguez in the CTW-organized netfest celebrating the 40 years of Milo in the Philippine market. The Philta-sanctioned event was supported by Wilson balls, adidas and Sports Kids. Bergavera outclassed Sy, 6-2, 6-3, in the boys' 14-under and Johan Anthony Sobrevega, 6-0, 6-3, in the boys' 16-under; Rodriguez defeated Chat Conta, 7-6, 6-7, 8-6, in the boys' 18-under; Guba blanked Cristina Encarnacion, 6-0, 6-0, in the girls' 12-under and Gioley Sagansay, 6-1, 6-4, in the girls 14-under; Tan tripped Angelica Napiere, 6-0, 5-7, 7-3, in the girls' 16-under; and Ellaine downed Rochelle Soldivilla, 6-3, 6-1, in the girls' 18-under categories.

MATTEO Guidicelli of Team CRG-Cebu (fourth from left) on the winners' podium after topping the Formula Rotax Juniors class in the recent kickoff leg of the Shell Karting Superseries 2004 sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone, Eastway Motorcycle Racing and Denso Iridium Power at the Carmona Racing Circuit. With him from left are fifth placer and Team CRG-Cebu teammate Paco Rodriguez, third placer Mark Bumgarner of M&M Racing, runner-up Marlon Stockinger of Birel and fourth placer Marty Aguilar of M&M Racing.

EPSON

EPSON SUMMER BADMINTON CAMP
@PIONEER BADMINTON
Get fit the fun way this summer!!

Date: April 12-May 3 (1st batch)
May 10-May 31 (2nd batch)

Schedules:
M-W-F or M-T-TH
12PM-1:30PM OR 2PM-3:30PM

Venue: Pioneer Badminton,
Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City

Be trained under former RP Team players!
- EG Lim, Malvin Alcala, Steven Yan,
Jojo Abilagoyo

Fee: P2,500 for 10 sessions
Includes; court fees,
shuttlecocks, a certification
of completion

OPEN TO ALL AGES!

FREE t-shirt for the 1st
100 registrants!

Date: April 3-4, 2004

Venue: Pioneer Badminton,
Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City

Levelling: March 13-14 & March 20-21

Tournament fee: P600

Includes:
Court fees, shuttlecocks,
tournament shirt and dinner (Awards night)

Registration until March 21, 2004

For more info, contact us at 638-5343 and 746-0828

Pioneer BADMINTON SUMMER TOURNAMENT

Our Partners
WHISTLESTOP
MAGIC 89.9
103.5 K-Lite
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Discovery Spa
WWW.YEHEY.COM
PBH
99.5 RT THE MOST HIT MUSIC

Is Pacquiao durable enough?

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

MANNY Pacquiao should be made to realize that his next fight could be decided on durability.

I met with Pacquiao last week, two days before he departed for his California training camp.

Hello, I said. Pacquiao did not answer.

He instead held my right hand and pressed it against his abdomen.

Hard enough? *OK na ba*? Pacquiao asked with a wink. Something in his eyes sparkled.

This was last Wednesday in front of the Bayview Park Hotel on Roxas Boulevard, before Pacquiao could walk to his white car to join the HBO team in a bayside shoot of his promotional footages.

***

Well, I didn't actually feel skin or flesh when Pacquiao pushed my hand against his tummy.

The thing felt solid and firm. Hard as a wooden plank.

Yes, OK *na*, I told him.

Kulang pa, not enough, Manny retorted.

He winked again then vowed to make his abdomen feel as hard as steel in time for his May 8 championship date with the fabulous Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico.

Funny, but I was among those who said Pacquiao could be on the lardy side for the HBO shoot of his training in Manila.

Of course, I was wrong, very wrong.

Murad Muhammad, Pacquiao's US promoter, was both proud and ecstatic in announcing Manny was superbly fit after their Manila encounter last week.

***

Pacquiao did appear trim and fit when we met last Wednesday.

As it turned out, he had been working out and jogging for over a week in General Santos and Davao prior to his last trip to Manila.

His weight? He said he tipped the scales at 133 lb in the morning.

For the first time in the week last Wednesday, he said he failed to jog and train as he suffered constipation after eating boiled corn grits, an old favorite, which he substituted for his morning rice intake.

***

There are two prevailing thoughts on Pacquiao's next assignment.

His trainer, Freddie Roach, would not hide the fact that Marquez could give Pacquiao some trouble. Roach himself felt Pacquiao should have been given a lighter assignment after his big, taxing bout with Marco Antonio Barrera last November.

Of course, Roach would later contend that Marquez, just like his predecessors under the fabled Nacho Berestain, is sound in fundamentals but "doesn't offer something new."

On the other hand, Moy Lainez, main cog in Team Pacquiao, said Marquez is not yet in the class of Barrera, whom Pacquiao had demolished in 11 rounds.

The quality of foes Marquez had fought cannot be compared to the caliber of fighters Barrera had beaten, Lainez told Today's Dominic Menor.

In downplaying Marquez's record, Lainez explained that the Mexican holder of the WBA/IBF featherweight crowns "hasn't seen the type of fighter with both speed and power as Pacquiao."

***

All told, his handlers are unanimously convinced Pacquiao has the skills and inborn gift to overwhelm Marquez, perceived to be a lot slower than the Filipino boxing sensation.

This early, the expected Pacquiao strategy against Marquez should be the in-and-out style, meaning he would opt to use the ring riding on speed and dazzle, while scoring on selected situations. Pacquiao will not be ordered to slug it toe-to-toe against Marquez.

Well, as mentioned at the start, durability could be the key to winning—or losing.

There's no doubting both fighters will be at their best.

Now, if the fight goes past the middle rounds, or grinds into a tough, bloody duel, will Pacquiao be up to the challenge?

So far, his handlers have been flaunting Pacquiao's speed and strength.

Meaning they have concentrated mainly on offense, the easier half of the job, without noting that the opponent is both a tough defender and terrific counter-puncher.

The sooner Team Pacquiao starts working and talking defense, the better.

Follow China's lead, Jawo urges RP sports leaders

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

(CONDOLENCE. My family and I condole with esteemed friend Tony Chua, Batang Red Bull team manager and former Letran football player, whose mother died Saturday morning. May she rest in peace).

I AGREE with Sen. Robert Jaworski when he said recently that the Philippines should follow the lead of China if we want to become No. 1 in the region again, stressing that there was nothing wrong with the Chinese government's intervention in sports because it was clearly responsible in making the Chinese athletes world beaters today.

Having been in China twice (first during the historic ``Ping Pong Diplomacy" in 1972 when the Chinese athletes were then virtual unknowns to the outside world and, much later, when China joined the international community of nations, including the Asian Games in Tehran in 1974), I can attest to the logic of Mr. Jaworski's wise and timely observation.

``The Chinese closed the door to the outside world and worked feverishly to improve their sports programs. With the help of their NSAs (national sports associations), the Chinese government took the lead in identifying their talents and training them to become world-class athletes. Now, China is an acknowledged world super power. not only in sports but in other aspects as well," Jaworski said during a meeting with officials of the Journal Group of Publications.

The most popular basketball player of this generation, the 58-year-old Jaworski, who is seeking re-election, also defended the government against criticisms that it is meddling too much in sports, particularly in the hosting of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games (through the Philippine Sports Commission).

``I think the government has all the right to intervene especially in making sure the funds allocated for sports are properly used," Jaworski said, adding that the government should take a direct hand in the preparation of the 2005 SEA Games because the country's pride is at stake. Jaworski stressed that if our hosting of the SEA Games will not turn out well it is not only the Philippine Olympic Committee (the lead SEAG organizer) that will be embarrassed but the whole country as well.

***

SLASHER CUP NG MASA. To enable all segments of society to earn a shot at the big bucks, World Slasher champion and newspaper executive Rey Briones is hosting a truly national Slasher Cup ng Masa 6-Cock Derby at the popular Roligon Mega Cockpit on March 24, 26, 29, and 31. A guaranteed prize of P1.5 million awaits the winner(s) for an entry fee of P8,800. Minimum bet is P3,300...Coach Norman Black, assisted by Francis Rodriguez and PBA legend Samboy Lim, will conduct the Burlington Basketball Skills Camp for boys and girls 8 to 18 years old at the Metro Gym on Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong City starting April 12. Registration deadline is March 31. For inquiries, call TEAM at 894-3576 or 894-3014.

8 Vis-Min players make final tryouts

DUMAGUETE CITY—A tower of power and a streak shooter from University of Mindanao lead eight aspirants from the Visayas and Mindanao who advanced to the final tryouts for the men's basketball national training pool recently.

Samigue Eman, a 22-year-old 6-foot-9 center, and Eder John Saldua, a 20-year-old 6-3 forward, are considered shoo-ins, having impressed national coaches Dong Vergeire and Boyzie Zamar during the Cebuana Lhuillier Tryouts ng Bayan held at the Lamberto Macias Sports Center here.

Others who passed scrutiny were 6-2 Jerry Cavan and 6-3 Rainward Ramos, both from the Cebu Institute of Technology and Skygo; 6-4 Leo Dale Caparas, 6-5 Jay-R Gerilla and 6-1 Jayford Rodriguez, both from the University of Visayas; and 6-2 Jet Latonio of the University of Southern Philippines.

They will be sent to Manila by the project's corporate sponsor, Cebuana Lhuillier, through EVP and GM Jean Henri Lhuillier, to join the survivors of the Luzon and NCR tryouts set April 2-3 at the Rizal Coliseum.

Complete NBA results

Philadelphia 107, Dallas 98; Indiana 101, Chicago 77; New York 96, Atlanta 84; Denver 102, LA Clippers 80; Houston 93, Portland 85 (ot). AP

3-cock derby sizzles at LP Coliseum

EXCITING matches are expected in another 3-cock derby tonight at the Las Piñas Coliseum, now regarded as the coolest cockfighting center in Metro Manila. Derby sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000, with Yoyoy and Von Agiwin of Cavite as hosts. For an entry fee of P5,500, the cash prize at stake is P300,000. Entries will be accepted before 2 p.m. For inquiries, call 873-1040 or 0920-5609404 and look for Gerry or Julius. The Kumander Dante entry of Butuan breeder Dante Jamboy emerged as solo champion in last Wednesday's 3-cock event. Meanwhile, the BRBL 5-Cock Derby slated this Saturday will start at 4 p.m. Hosts Boy Royo and Boy de Roca said that some 80 fights are on tap. The prize at stake is P500,000 while entry fee is P20,000. Also slated at the arena is a 3-cock derby on April 21 with Allan and Julius Canumay as hosts, to be assisted by Rudy Sayaman. The fastest kill champion wins P10,000.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Tribeca 2. Don't Tell Me 3. Arigato 4. Loaded
Race 2--1. Space Crusader 2. Free Hand 3. Andrei's Billiard 4. Solid North 5. Spoiler
Race 3--1. Dato's Pride 2. C'est Moi 3. Give and Take
Race 4--1. Kiss Me Quick 2.Gentleman's Lady 3. Time to Party 4. Sierra Madre 5. Pro Bono
Race 5--1. Sweet Talk 2. Vitality 3. Archer 4. Ground Wave 5.Napa Valley 6. Arbiter
Race 6--1. Ganda 2. Victory Lap 3. Dot Com
Race 7--1. Mika's Pride 2. Solo Singer 3. Time Enchanted 4. Bingbong 5. Red Phoenix
Race 8--1. St. Emilion 2. Master Kenneth 3. Feast of Diamond
Race 9--1. Flying Free 2. Batang Cabu 3. Impromptu 4. Gelay's Charm 5. Bull Dancing 6. Headliner

BATANGAS
BAGUIO

What Drives You

Avoiding penance on the road

We at Caltex know that once you hit the road, safety is always your primary concern. That is why each year at Lent, through the Caltex Summer Samaritan, we extend our service and a helping hand to motorists like you. To give you a trouble-free trip this Holy Week.

What Drives You CALTEX

Pré-Departure Offerings*
(from March 29 to April 8, 2004)

- Free 22 point Preventive Maintenance Check
- Get 20% discount on Extended Life Coolant (1 Liter) and 10% discount on Brake & Clutch Fluid (250 ml.)

Holy Week Offerings*
(from April 7 to April 11, except April 9, Good Friday)

SERVICES:
- Car check from Toyota, Nissan, and Isuzu
- Battery check and service from Motolite Battery
- First aid assistance from Red Cross
- Roving motorist assistance from Metrowatch
- Towing assistance from 24 HEROES
- Clean restrooms

FREE GIVEAWAYS:
- Dole Pineapple Calcium
- Dole Pineapple Watermelon
- Refresh Mineral Water
- Great Taste RTD
- Pokka Drinks
- Red Bull Barako Coffee
- Kimy Bulilits
- Hershey's products
- Wrigley's Spearmint Jumbo
- Lemon Square goodies
- Frito Lays
- Growers Peanuts
- Act II Popcorn
- Saucy Mi
- Nooda Crunch
- Homi
- Carefree Feminine Wipes
- Colgate products

Brought to you by:
Vortex MOTOLITE TOYOTA NISSAN ISUZU NESTEA METROWATCH

* Only at participating outlets
See flyers for details.
Promo Period: March 22 to April 4, 2004
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0649, Series of 2004

MOTOLITE
MOTOLITE
MOTOLITE
TROPICALIZED
BUILT FOR HOT CLIMATES

MALAYO ANG MARARATING KAHIT DI MO TUBIGAN.
MAINTENANCE - FREE
MOTOLITE
MAS PANGMATAGALAN
www.motolite.com
For Deliveries call: 843-1111 (Express Hatid)

CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

Central

SM MEGAMALL
6331901

1 WISE GIRLS
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
3 SCOOBY DOO 2
4 50 FIRST DATES
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
6 SORUM
7 THE GRUDGE 2
8 DEATH CURSE
9 OTSO-OTSO
10 HIDALGO
11 HIGHWAYMEN
12 KARIBAL

SM CITY STA. MESA
7148522 • 7161416

1 OTSO-OTSO
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 50 FIRST DATES
4 DUDA/DOUBT
5 HIGHWAYMEN
6 THE CURSE
7 SCOOBY DOO 2
8 HIDALGO
9 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
10 KARIBAL

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 SCOOBY DOO 2
2 HIGHWAYMEN
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 KARIBAL

SM CITY MANILA
5230240

1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
3 WISE GIRLS
4 50 FIRST DATES
5 SCOOBY DOO 2
6 HIDALGO
7 KARIBAL
8 DEATH CURSE
9 OTSO-OTSO
10 TORQUE
11 HIGHWAYMEN
12 THE CURSE

North

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 KARIBAL
2 SCOOBY DOO 2
3 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT
4 THE GRUDGE 2
5 OTSO-OTSO
6 HIDALGO
7 50 FIRST DATES
8 HIGHWAYMEN

SM CITY MARILAO
(044) 933 2913 to 17

1 HIDALGO
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7120015

1 SCOOBY DOO 2
2 TORQUE
3 LOVE ACTUALLY
4 LANGIT MO, KALIGAYAHAN KO
5 THE GRUDGE 2
6 OTSO-OTSO

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464500

1 HIDALGO
2 IN THE CUT
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 SCOOBY DOO 2

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350740

1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 DEATH CURSE
3 TORQUE
4 HIGHWAYMEN
5 THE GRUDGE 2
6 HIDALGO
7 OTSO-OTSO
8 SCOOBY DOO 2
9 50 FIRST DATES
10 THE CURSE
11 GOTHIKA
12 KARIBAL

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS
8008800

1 RING: THE SPIRAL
2 SCOOBY DOO 2
3 DEATH CURSE
4 50 FIRST DATES
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
6 HIDALGO
7 OTSO-OTSO
8 HIGHWAYMEN
9 THE GRUDGE 2
10 KARIBAL

SM CITY BICUTAN
7763355

1 SCOOBY DOO 2
2 OTSO-OTSO
3 50 FIRST DATES
4 HIGHWAYMEN

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT
8294075

1 HIGHWAYMEN
2 SCOOBY DOO 2
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 KARIBAL

SM CITY BACOOR
(046) 4173869

1 DEATH CURSE
2 SCOOBY DOO 2
3 HIDALGO
4 THE GRUDGE 2
5 50 FIRST DATES
6 OTSO-OTSO
7 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
8 KARIBAL

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7100877-80

1 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
2 GOTHIKA
3 DRAGON VS. NINJA
4 OTSO-OTSO

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU
(032) 2313876

1 GOTHIKA
2 HIDALGO
3 SCOOBY DOO 2
4 NIGHTMARE
5 BONE SNATCHER
6 PEEPSHOW
7 OTSO-OTSO
8 TORQUE

SM CITY ILOILO
(033) 3209422

1 WATER DEMON
2 RESERVED
3 SCOOBY DOO 2
4 DUPLEX
5 GOTHIKA
6 OTSO-OTSO
7 RESERVED
8 TOTALLY BLONDE

SM CITY DAVAO
(082) 2976908

1 HIDALGO
2 TOTALLY BLONDE
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 GOTHIKA
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
6 SCOOBY DOO 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884

1 WISHING STAIRS
2 OTSO-OTSO
3 GOTHIKA
4 TORQUE

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA

1
SCOOBY DOO 2
11:45 FS/12:15
MFS/2:20/4:25/6:30/8:35/
10:15 LFS/10:45
LMS/12:20 END

2
50 FIRST DATES
11:25 FS/11:55
MFS/2:05/4:15/6:25/8:35/10
LFS/10:45 LMS/12:20
END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

SM CINEMA now showing

See the first full-length digital movie to be released commercially in local theaters!

Showing only at
SM Sta.Mesa Cinema 4

for screening schedules:
714 9522 • 716 1416

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ALL DIGITAL SOUND
AYALA CINEMAS
PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1

1 HIGHWAYMEN
2 SCOOBY DOO 2
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 50 FIRST DATES

G4 GLORIETTA 4

1 HIGHWAYMEN
2 WISEGIRLS
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 50 FIRST DATES 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
4 THE MISSING
5 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT
6 SCOOBY DOO 2
7 THE GRUDGE 2

GB1 GREENBELT 1

ArtFilm
1 HIGHWAYMEN 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45
2 SCOOBY DOO 2 12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15
Onstage
REPERTORY'S DRACULA
Mar. 26, 27 & 28

GB3 GREENBELT 3

THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 50 FIRST DATES 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 SCOOBY DOO 2 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15, 11:15
GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE MISSING 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30
4 LOVE ACTUALLY 1:05, 3:30, 5:55, 8:20, 10:45
GUARANTEED SEATS 5 HIGHWAYMEN 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10, 11:10

ATC

THX 1 SCOOBY DOO 2
2 HIGHWAYMEN
3 50 FIRST DATES
4 LOVE ACTUALLY
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDDS) BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
2 (SDDS) SCOOBY DOO-2
3 (DTS) SPIRAL
4 GOLD (DTS) SCOOBY DOO-2
5 GOLD (DOLBY) 50 FIRST DATE
6 GOLD (SDDS) HIDALGO
7 GOLD (DOLBY) HIGHWAY MEN
8 (PANL) OTSO OTSO
9 (PANL) DEATH CURSE
10 (PANL) GRUDGE-2

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
2 (DOLBY) SCOOBY DOO-2
3 (DOLBY) 50 FIRST DATE
4 (DOLBY) HIGHWAY MEN

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 OTSO OTSO
2 SCOOBY DOO-2
3 KARIBAL

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 OTSO OTSO
SCOOBY DOO-2
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) KARIBAL
5

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 PEEP SHOW
2 KARIBAL
3 HIGHWAY MEN
4 OTSO OTSO
5 SCOOBY DOO-2
6 THE CURSE

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1 DRAGON VS' NINJA
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 892.2503

SCOOBY DOO-2

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 OTSO OTSO
2 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1
2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

RESERVE
5
6
7 (DTS)
8 (SDDS)
9 (DOLBY)

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 KARIBAL
2 OTSO OTSO
3 SCOOBY DOO-2
4 (SDDS) SORUM
5 GHOST FIGHTER
6 (DOLBY) HIGHWAY MEN
7 (DTS) THE CURSE
8 BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
9 PEEP SHOW

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 RESERVE
2 (SDDS)
3 (DTS)
4 (DOLBY)
5

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 TORQUE
2 OTSO OTSO
3 (DTS) MR NICE GUY
4 KARIBAL
5 (SDDS) SCOOBY DOO-2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson KARIBAL
Lords KARIBAL

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 HIGHWAY MEN
2 OTSO OTSO
3 KARIBAL
4 SCOOBY DOO-2

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) HIGHWAY MEN
2 PEEP SHOW
3 KARIBAL
4 OTSO OTSO
5 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 KARIBAL
2 SCOOBY DOO-2

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
MALL CINEPLEX 7

1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) HIGHWAY MEN
4 (SDDS) SCOOBY DOO-2
5 (DTS) 50 FIRST DATE
6 THE CURSE
7 OTSO OTSO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) 50 FIRST DATE
2 OTSO OTSO
3 (DTS EX) SCOOBY DOO-2
4 HAUNTED OFFICE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 OTSO OTSO
2 DUPLEX
3 (DOLBY) 50 FIRST DATE
4 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO-2

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 OTSO OTSO
2 SPIRAL
3 (DOLBY) GOTHIKA
4 (DTS) TORQUE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1 OTSO OTSO
2 HIDALGO
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 OTSO OTSO
2 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO-2
3 (DOLBY) HIDALGO
4 SORUM

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 BONE SNATCHER
2 (DOLBY) HIDALGO
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO-2
4 OTSO OTSO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE
2 GOTHIKA
3 (DOLBY) OTSO OTSO

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 OTSO OTSO
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
3 (DOLBY) GHOST HOUSE
4 (DTS) TORQUE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320

1 HIDALGO
2 OTSO OTSO
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) DOUBLE SEEDUCTION
2 SAKIM SA PAG-IBIG
3 GHOST FIGHTERS
4 (DTS) THE PHONE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) HIDALGO
2 PEEP SHOW
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO-2
4 SORUM
5 OTSO OTSO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 SCOOBY DOO-2
2

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1 SCOOBY DOO-2
2 OTSO OTSO
3

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 DUPLEX
2 GOTHIKA
3 (DTS) TORQUE
4 (DOLBY) OTSO OTSO

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 (DTS) RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO
2 THE CURSE
3 SCOOBY DOO-2
4 OTSO OTSO

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO
2 OTSO OTSO

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

SCOOBY-DOO 2
OPENS TODAY

Movie . . .

From page A31

a down payment."

Seiko's Robbie Tan said his outfit also has an existing contract with Phillip.

"He has a contract to do one movie for Seiko," the producer told INQUIRER Entertainment. "It's not true that my signature in the contract was forged."

Viva's Vic del Rosario said "there was a contract (with Phillip) when he was still active. That was about two years ago."

P15-M loan

Decena's case against the Salvadors arose from Phillip's alleged non-payment of a P15 million loan that he had acquired from the businesswoman, with whom he was involved in a romantic relationship after he lost in his bid for vice mayor of Mandaluyong in the 2001 elections.

She said in her complaint that as guarantee for the loan, Phillip had put up as collateral a condominium unit at the Pinnacle Condominium in Wack Wack, Mandaluyong City. Under the Condominium Certificate of Title, ownership of the condominium was under the name of Kristina C. Aquino, Phillip's former live-in partner. But he assured Decena that the condominium was his since he had been paying for the monthly amortization and that it was in Kris's name only because his annulment case with his then wife Sonny was still pending.

Receipt

The deal was changed later to an absolute sale of the property to Decena, she said in her affidavit, for which she gave Phillip an additional P10 million on Dec. 11, 2001, and for which the actor had signed an acknowledgement receipt.

When Phillip failed to deliver the condominium's title and other documents related to their transaction, Decena demanded that he return to her the money, she said in her complaint. To show he could pay his obligations, Phillip provided her copies of three movie contracts with Regal Films, Seiko Films and Viva Films that his brother Ramon had entered into as his manager.

But Decena alleged in her affidavit that when her lawyer checked, he had found out that the producers' signatures on the contracts were forged.

In their motion to remand, the brothers have accused Decena of openly boasting that she has the support of her "ninong," Undersecretary Ramon Liwag, when she filed the case against the Salvadors. The motion also said Decena had "boasted that she and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno are close friends and that he is standing behind her in her suit." She also "boasted that one of her lawyers, Atty. Numfa Cristobal, used to work with the DOJ and wields a strong influence in that office."

For these reasons, the Salvadors "have lost confidence in the ability of the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor to conduct with absolute impartiality the preliminary investigation" of the case, according to their motion.

Oropesa withdraws candidacy

LEGAZPI CITY—Actress Elizabeth Oropesa formally withdrew her candidacy for vice governor of Albay province last Friday at the Commission on Elections (Comelec) provincial office here.

In her affidavit of withdrawal, Oropesa said, "for personal reasons, I have decided not to seek anymore any elective office. Thus, pursuant to the provisions of the Omnibus Election Code (BP 881) as amended, I hereby formally withdraw my certificate of candidacy for the elective position of provincial vice governor of Albay."

The actress filed her certificate of candidacy on Jan. 2 for the second top provincial post under the Partido ng Masang Pilipino political party.

Brando Sael, who is running for governor, refused to comment on the actress' withdrawal, but said he welcomed Oropesa's decision.

Sael also dismissed reports that he and Oropesa had some misunderstandings regarding campaign funds. He said he believed Oropesa's reason for backing out is mainly because of her obligations to GMA-7, where she appears in one of the network's soap operas. *Joyce Mejillano and Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Ali 3	HIGHWAYMEN
Ali 4	SCOOBY DOO 2
Ali 5	50 FIRST DATES
Ali 6	THE CURSE
Ali 7	OTSO OTSO

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
Open Daily 4 PM to 10 PM

ARANETA COLISEUM

MAR 24	PBA: GINEBRA VS. STA. LUCIA
MAR 25	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
MAR 27	CRAZY RIGHT NOW WITH VANESS WU
MAR 28	PBA: SHELL VS. GINEBRA
MAR 30	YAKAP DAY CARE CENTER MASS (9-11AM)
MAR 31	PBA: SAN MIGUEL VS. ALASKA
APR 2	ENRIQUE IGLESIAS -7 ASIA WORLD TOUR
APR 4	PBA: GINEBRA VS. TALK 'N' TEXT
APR 8	OLPH RETREAT (7AM)/ SHALOM (1PM)

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARIBAL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	KARIBAL
B	LIBERATED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	OTSO OTSO
CINEMA-2	KARIBAL
CINEMA-3	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HIDALGO
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CURSE
CINEMA-6	PEEP SHOW
CINEMA-7	TORQUE
CINEMA-8	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SCOOBY DOO 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HIGHWAYMEN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	50 FIRST DATES
CINEMA-12	GRUDGE 2
CINEMA-14	GHOSTFIGHTER (RI)
CINEMA-15	OTSO OTSO

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

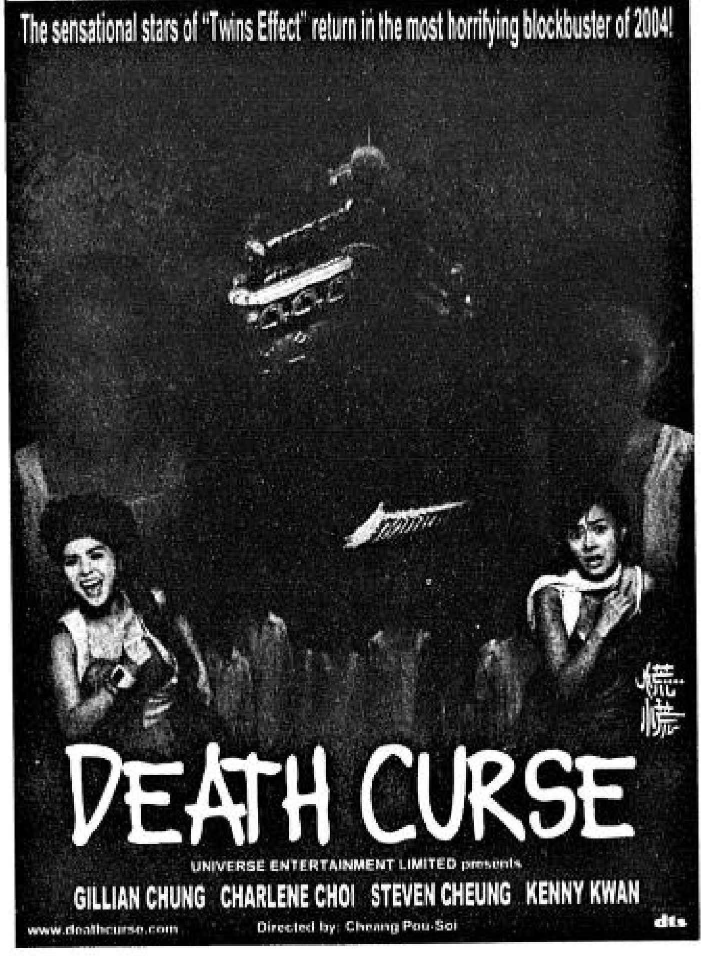
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	TORQUE
CINEMA-1	OTSO OTSO
CINEMA-2	GOTHIKA
CINEMA-4	DUPLEX

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

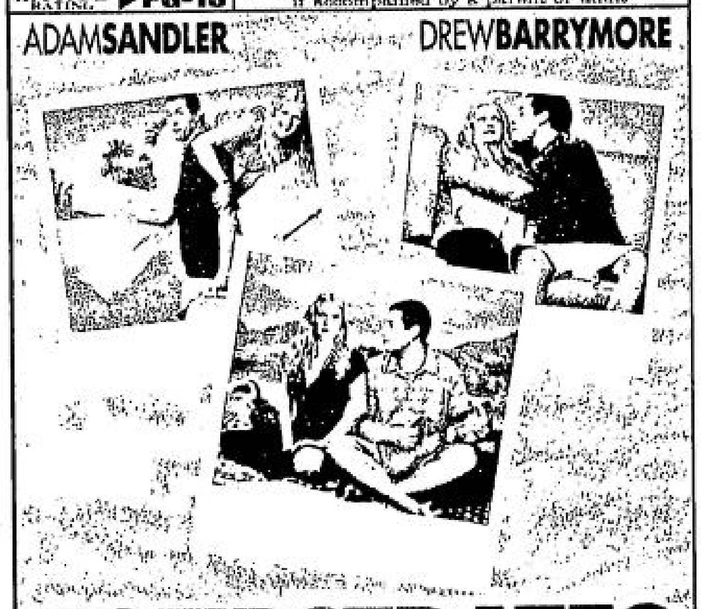
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

OPENS TODAY!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
The sensational stars of "Twins Effect" return in the most horrifying blockbuster of 2004!



DEATH CURSE
UNIVERSE ENTERTAINMENT LIMITED presents
GILLIAN CHUNG CHARLENE CHOI STEVEN CHEUNG KENNY KWAN
www.deathcurse.com Directed by: Cheang Pou-Soi dts

FALL IN LOVE OVER & OVER AGAIN
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
ADAM SANDLER DREW BARRYMORE



50 FIRST DATES
When your girlfriend has amnesia you have to win her over...every single day.
50FirstDates.com MAKE IT A DATE!
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 HIGHWAYMEN
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00
R13

CINEMA 2 SCOOBY DOO 2
11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
GP

Special screening of
PASSION OF THE CHRIST on Holy Thursday.
Advance ticket purchase for PASSION OF THE CHRIST is also available. • 722 4496
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

MUSIC MUSEUM
MAR. 26,27,28/ APR. 2 & 3 'MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL' 8:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL · 721-6726 OR 721-0635

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972
RESERVED SEATING
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1	THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 12:30, 3:05, 5:40 8:15, 10:50 R-13
2	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 11:00, 1:10, 3:20 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 GP
3	50 FIRST DATES 11:35, 1:50, 4:05 6:20, 8:35, 10:50 R-18
4	OTSO-OTSO 12:20, 2:40, 5:00 7:20, 9:40 PG-13

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

WISE GIRLS R18 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	SCOOBY DOO 2 GP 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	SCOOBY DOO 2 GP 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25
HIGHWAYMEN R13 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20	LOVE ACTUALLY R18	50 FIRST DATES PG13 12:15, 2:10, 4:15, 6:10, 8:15, 10:20

MATINEE P60.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
MOVIEWORLD
CALL-A-MOVIE FOR ALL BRANCHES 635-555
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

TOP MOVIE THEATER
Annual National Consumer's Quality Award 2003
Family Consumers Choice Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16 / 687-0593

CINEMA 1 THX	SCOOBY DOO 2
2	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
3	HIGHWAYMEN
4	50 FIRST DATES
5	SCOOBY DOO 2
6	WISE GIRLS
7	THE GRUDGE 2
8	LOVE ACTUALLY
9	OTSO-OTSO
10	DEATH CURSE

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

1	SCOOBY DOO 2
2	THE GRUDGE 2
3	WISE GIRLS
4	DEATH CURSE
5	OTSO-OTSO
6	HIGHWAYMEN
7	50 FIRST DATES

Big R Supercenter
METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1	HIGHWAYMEN
2	50 FIRST DATES
3	KARIBAL
4	SCOOBY DOO 2
5	SCOOBY DOO 2
6	THE GRUDGE 2
7	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
8	OTSO-OTSO

Big R Supercenter
NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

1	THE GRUDGE 2
2	OTSO-OTSO
3	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
4	THE CURSE
5	HIGHWAYMEN
6	SCOOBY DOO 2
7	50 FIRST DATES
8	THE NIGHTMARE

Citisquare
MALABON 288-0985/2575

1	KARIBAL
2	OTSO-OTSO
3	SCOOBY DOO 2
4	WISHING STAIRS

big Supercenter
CAINTA 240-4661

1	SCOOBY DOO 2
2	OTSO-OTSO
3	KARIBAL
4	50 FIRST DATES

Big R Supercenter
STA. ROSA Laguna (049)837-0907

1	SCOOBY DOO 2
2	OTSO-OTSO
3	BONE SNATCHER
4	LOVE ACTUALLY
5	50 FIRST DATES

Big R Supercenter
LIPA 757-3684 / 312-5870

1	SCOOBY DOO 2
2	OTSO-OTSO
3	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
4	THE CURSE
5	CARMEN

Big R Supercenter
DASMARIÑAS 852-2125

1	SCOOBY DOO 2
2	LOVE ACTUALLY
3	CARMEN
4	THE GRUDGE 2
5	OTSO-OTSO

Big R Supercenter
STARMILLS San Fernando Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270

1	SCOOBY DOO 2
2	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
3	OTSO-OTSO
4	THE GRUDGE 2
5	TORQUE
6	LOVE ACTUALLY

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5850

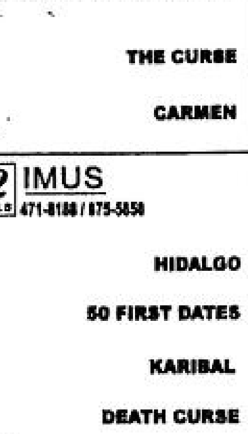
1	HIDALGO
2	50 FIRST DATES
3	KARIBAL
4	DEATH CURSE
5	OTSO-OTSO
6	THE GRUDGE 2

BACOLOD 441-0458/59

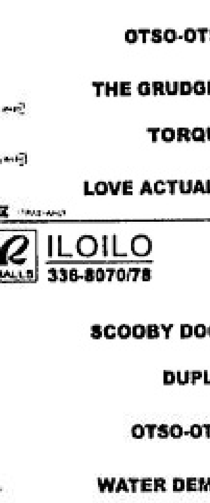
1	SCOOBY DOO 2
2	OTSO-OTSO
3	GOTHIKA
4	LOST IN TRANSLATION
5	CARMEN
6	DRAGON VS. NINJA

ILOILO 336-8070/78

1	SCOOBY DOO 2
2	DUPLEX
3	OTSO-OTSO
4	WATER DEMON
5	TOTALLY BLONDE
6	GOTHIKA



See it at its BEST



at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
The PASSION of the CHRIST
Showing on MARCH 31 at Robinsons Movieworld
Tickets available at the ticket booth from MARCH 19
For inquiries on exclusive screenings, pls. Call the Marketing Department @ 687-7945 to 47 ; 683-0961, 636-2894; 633-4446 loc. 14 / 15 Or email: saharajpg@yahoo.com
MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Cooked recipe, shells on the skin …

From page A31

the recipe into the pot—and eat!)

***

Host: What do you want to say to your best friend, who is celebrating her birthday today?

Guest: To my best friend, I want to say, happy birthday, never big the head.

(Well, it's the thought that counts—never mind the headache.)

***

Host: Your workshop is open to students from what age to what age?

Guest: Oh, don't worry, we're open 53 *lahat na may* age limits!

(*Ano daw?*)

***

Host: How do we achieve whiter skin? Please demonstrate the treatment procedure.

Guest: First, we have washing and cleaning. This cream is what we use to remove our arms and legs.

(Yikes!)

***

Host: Uh, please continue?

Guest: Ok. After cleaning and scrubbing, the skin is now ready to be applied a whitening.

(Ah, so...)

***

Host: This whitening solution works in what way?

Guest: It is to remove the shells on your skin.

(Ouch, that hurts!)

***

Host: And, the final stage?

Guest: Next, this is the expiration stage. Then we will be apply the gel.

(Never mind the treatment—we don't want to expire!)

***

Host: What type of beauty are you looking for in your beauty contest?

Guest: Oh, we don't limit. Among our contestants already, *may mga morena, may mga chinita, pero meron din namang normal ang itsura.*

(How politically incorrect can you get?!)

***

Host: How do you cook the perfect omelet? Can you tell us the secret?

Guest: First, beat the eggs lightly, then put it there. That's it!

(Some secret!)

***

Host: Now that you've reached the finals, what can you promise the organizer of this contest?

Guest: *Ipinapangako ko po na ibibigay ko ang* the best of me!

(*Huwag na lang kaya...*)

***

Host: Some other nominees say that you shouldn't have won the award. What do you want to say to them?

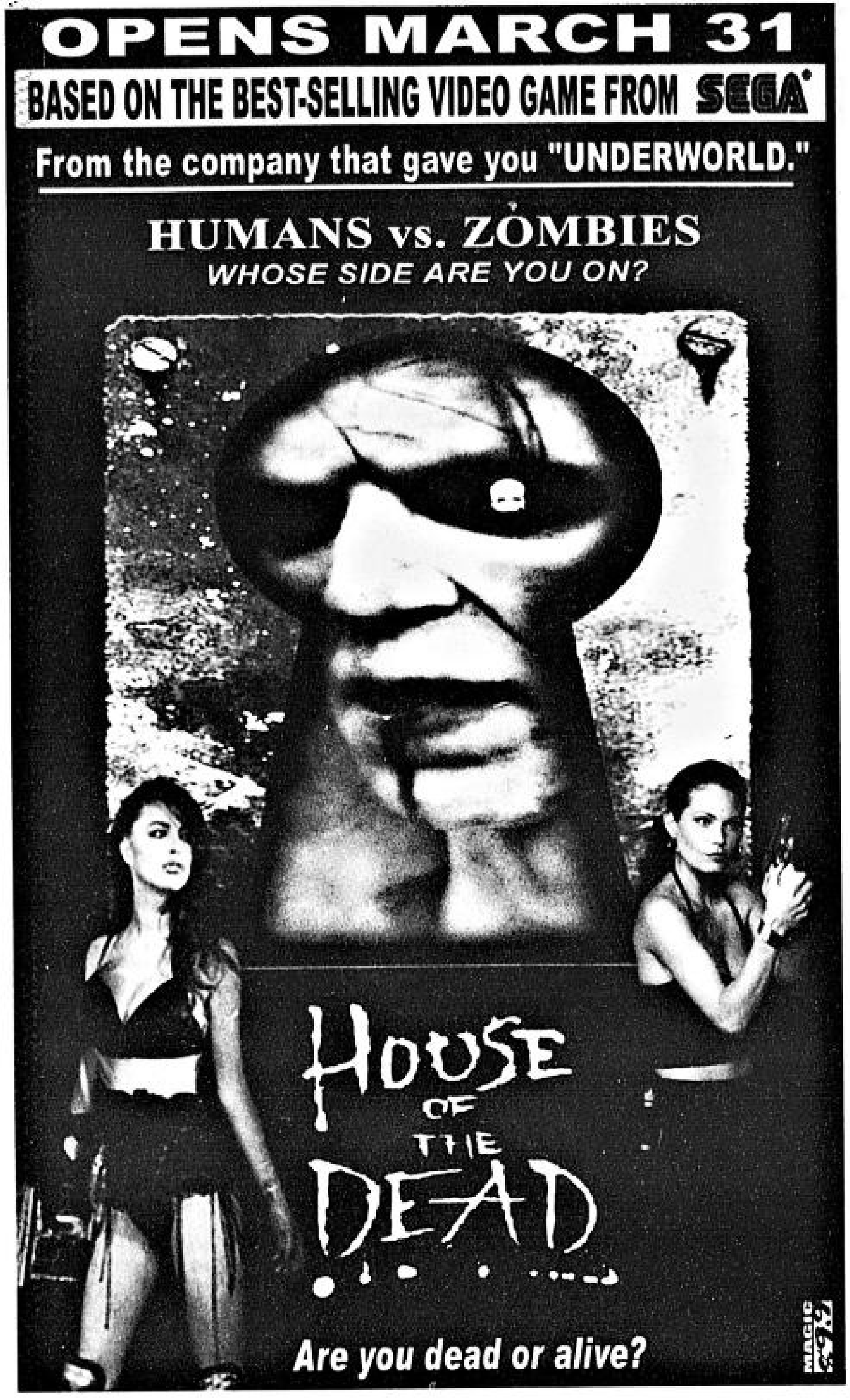
Guest: *Tanggapin niyo na lang, talagang ganyan ang laban, may* winner *at* loser—so, be sports!

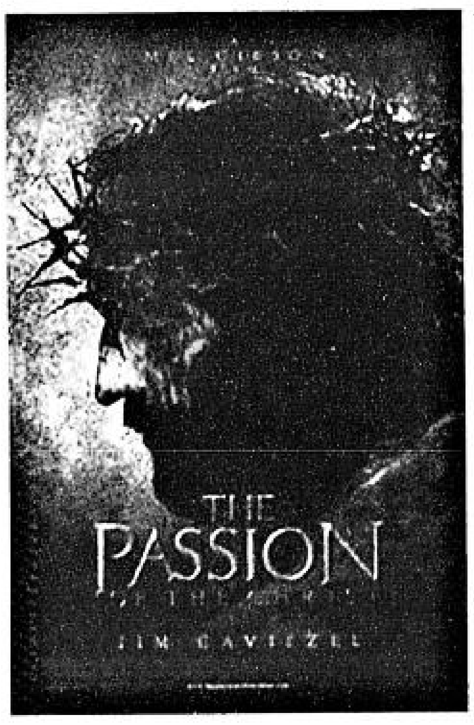
(You sound like—a sore winner!)

New series

NEXT month, the Cartoon Network telecasts these new series: "Medabots" starting April 1, weekdays at 7:30 p.m. In the near future, smart and powerful personal robots help kids with their homework, etc. But the Medabots are also used in Robattles—head-to-head battles between two robots.

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" in animation, starting April 4, weekends at 7 p.m. Follow the teen warriors adventures as they fight foes like Shredder and his Foot Clan, and Dr. Stockman and his Mousers.


OPENS MARCH 31
BASED ON THE BEST-SELLING VIDEO GAME FROM SEGA
From the company that gave you "UNDERWORLD."
HUMANS vs. ZOMBIES
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?
HOUSE OF THE DEAD
Are you dead or alive?

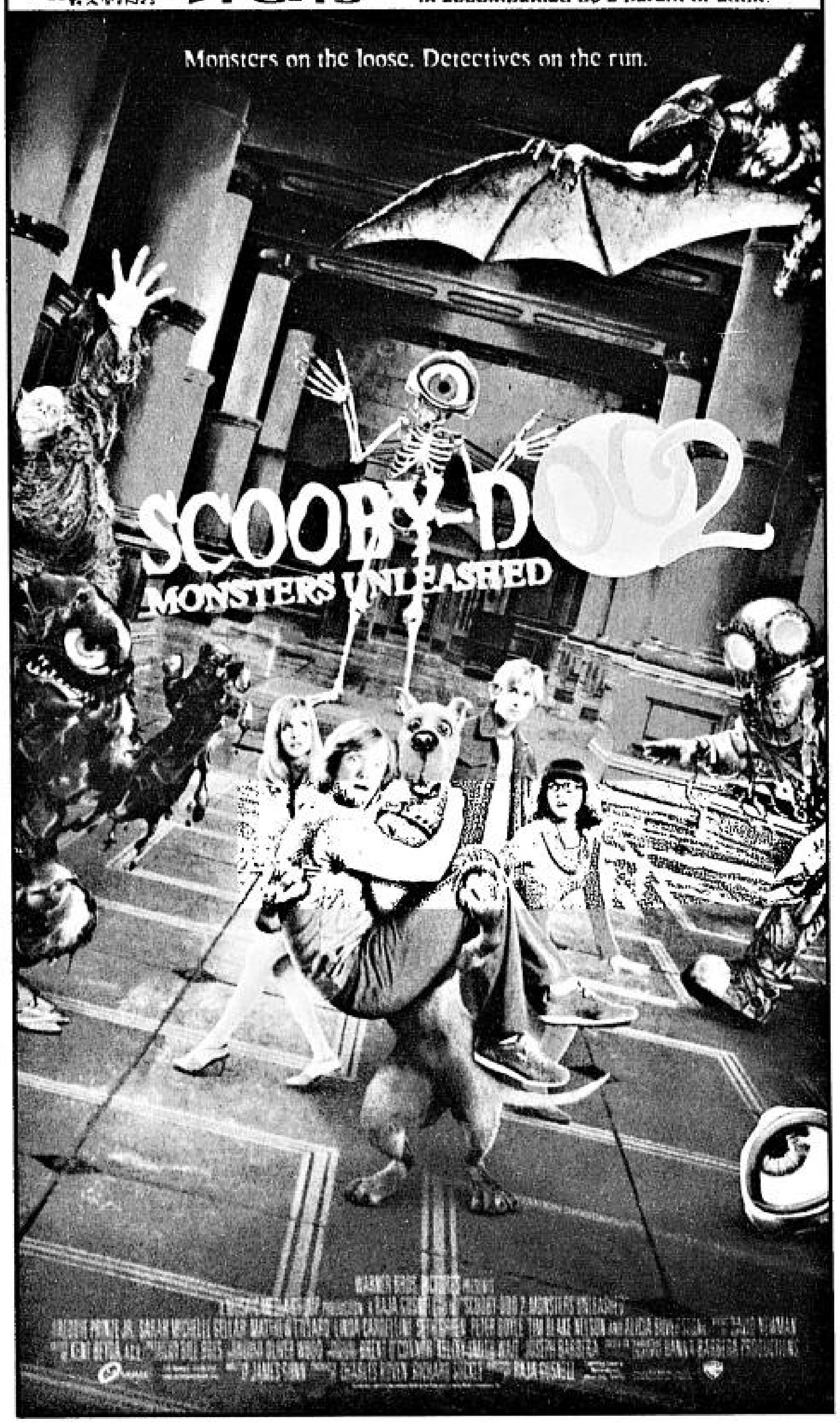


THE
PASSION
OF THE CHRIST
Showing on MARCH 31
at Robinsons Movieworld
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
Avoid the on the spot rush of the most talked about film of the year.
Tickets available at the ticket booth from MARCH 19
*Present the ticket directly to the cinema porter.
MTRCB Rating: PG-13
Parents are strongly cautioned in bringing along kids below 10 years because of some scenes that might stress their sensibilities.
For inquiries on exclusive screenings, pls. call the Marketing Dept. @ 687-7945 to 47; 683-0961; 636-2894 loc. 14/15
email: saharajpg@yahoo.com

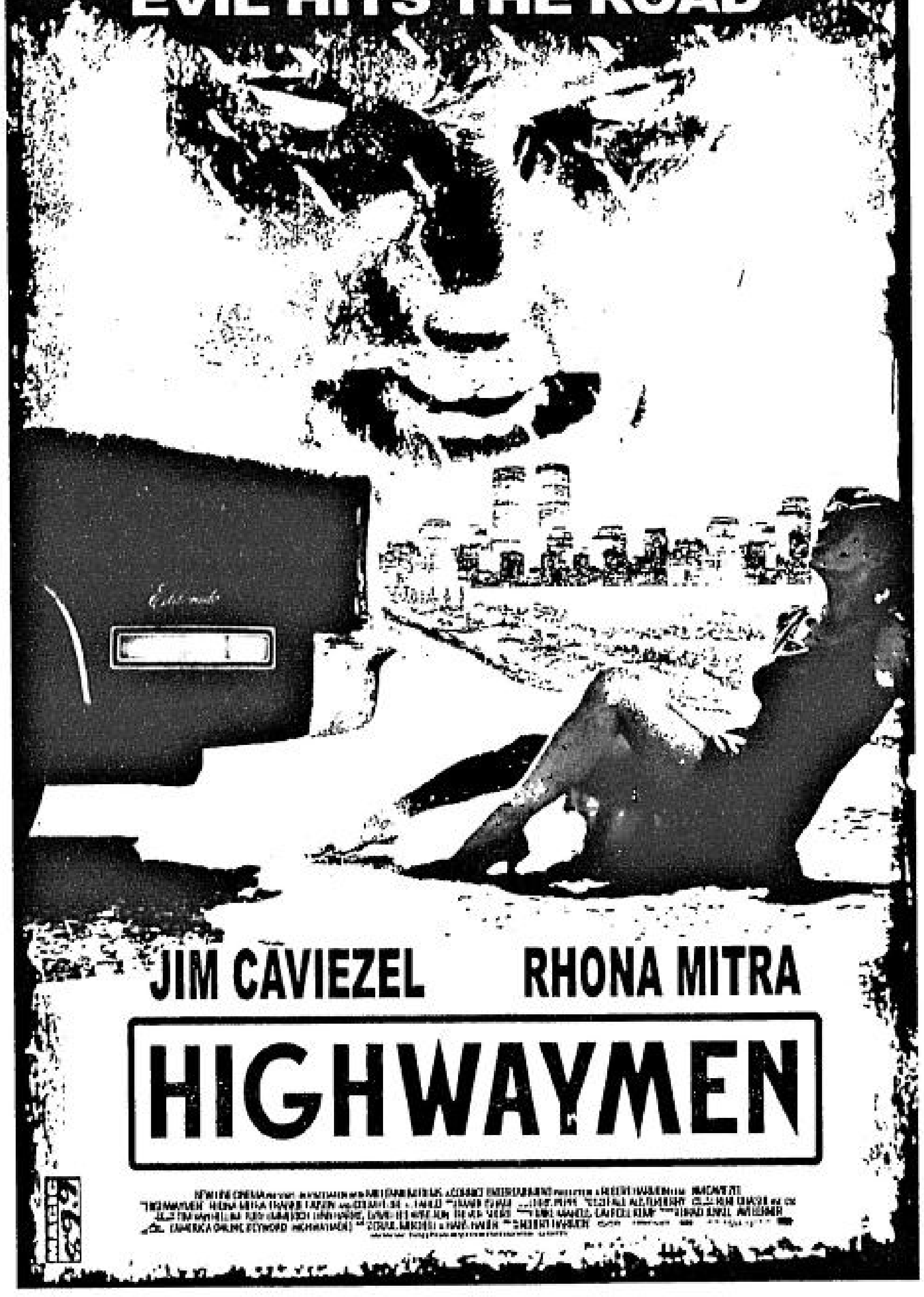
DAYANI ACBATANI
and
YHONG NATADRO
otso otso
PAMELA-MELA WAN
NOW SHOWING AT GLORIETTA 1 CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage
OTSO-OTSO
INSTANT PREMYO
SA GLORIETTA 1
GET 2 FREE TIMEZONE GAMES EACH FOR EVERY SINGLE RECEIPT PURCHASE OF 8 (EIGHT) "OTSO-OTSO" MOVIE TICKETS AT GLORIETTA 1 CINEMAS
FREE GAME PASS VALID FOR ONE MONTH FROM DATE THE MOVIE TICKET WAS PURCHASED.
PROMO RUNS FROM MARCH 19 - 30, 2004
PER DTI NCR PERMIT # A' 206 SERIES OF 2004
AYALA CINEMAS

MISSING
COLUMBIA PICTURES
IMAGINE
AYALA CINEMAS
Lovenall!
NOW SHOWING
EXCLUSIVELY AT
GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
Tommy Lee Jones Cate Blanchett
From Ron Howard and Brian Grazer, the Oscar-winning director-producer team of A BEAUTIFUL MIND comes THE MISSING, an action-filled suspense thriller and a powerful drama of love, forgiveness and redemption
"Powerful and provocative. The Missing is another masterful production from one of the industry's best directors and two of its best actors."
– Paul Clinton, CNN
FOR SCREENING SCHEDULE, PLS. CALL 729-777
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R 13)

OPENS TODAY!
MTRCB ▶ PG-13



OPENS TODAY!
MTRCB ▶ R-13
JIM CAVIEZEL, stars as JESUS in "THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST."
Now, see him in a different role.
MAG-INGAT SA KALSADA.... SUMPA AT MALAGIM NA KAMATAYAN SAYO'Y NAGHIHINTAY.



Movie producers stand by Phillip Salvador in estafa case

By Nini Valera

MOVIE producers Vic del Rosario of Viva Films, Regal's Lily Monteverde and Seiko Films' Robbie Tan have come to the rescue of actor Phillip Salvador and his brother and manager Ramon Salvador, who are now facing estafa charges filed against them by businesswoman Cristina Castillo Decena before the Department of Justice.

The movie producers, whose alleged bogus contracts with the actor had been used as evidence against the Salvadors, told INQUIRER Entertainment in separate phone interviews last Monday that Phillip has existing valid contracts with their movie outfits.

In response to the complaint, Ramon and Phillip Salvador filed a motion to remand to (the) local prosecutor the case filed by Decena with the DOJ last March 2. The motion, filed last March 16, stated that under the Department of Justice Circular No. 62, par. 2, sub-par. 3, the DOJ does not allow direct filing of ordinary criminal complaints with the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor.

"That office is ordained to conduct preliminary investigation only of cases that affect national interests," it added.

In her complaint, Decena alleged that the actor's movie contracts, which he used as proof of his capacity to pay her P15 million he supposedly borrowed from her, bore fake signatures of the producers.

But Regal Films' Monteverde told INQUIRER Entertainment that her signature in the contract with Phillip was genuine.

"Of course, it's not forged," she said. "That contract is valid. Phillip has a contract to make one more movie with us, among other films, which he had already done. I have not yet paid him for that movie. I gave him only

MOVIE/ A28

EX-LOVERS Cristina Decena and Phillip Salvador are now in a bitter court fight over money.

Cooked recipe, shells on the skin and other boob-tube booboos

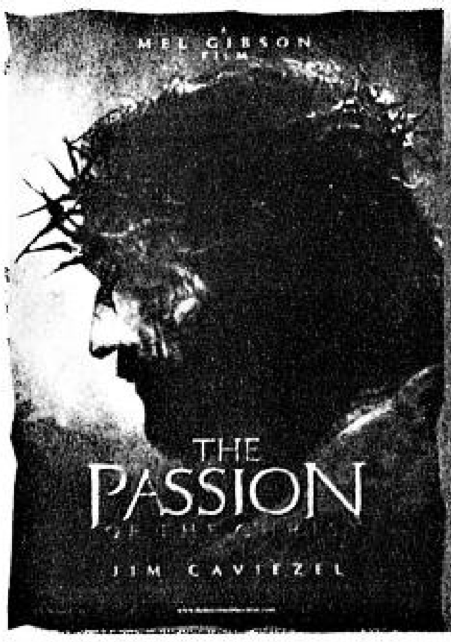
VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Today, our show will have a cooking demonstration of three delicious dishes by our guest culinary expert.—What will you cook for our first dish?

Guest: First, we will have the cooked recipe. (Just throw

COOKED/ A30



OPENS MARCH 31
AT AYALA CINEMAS

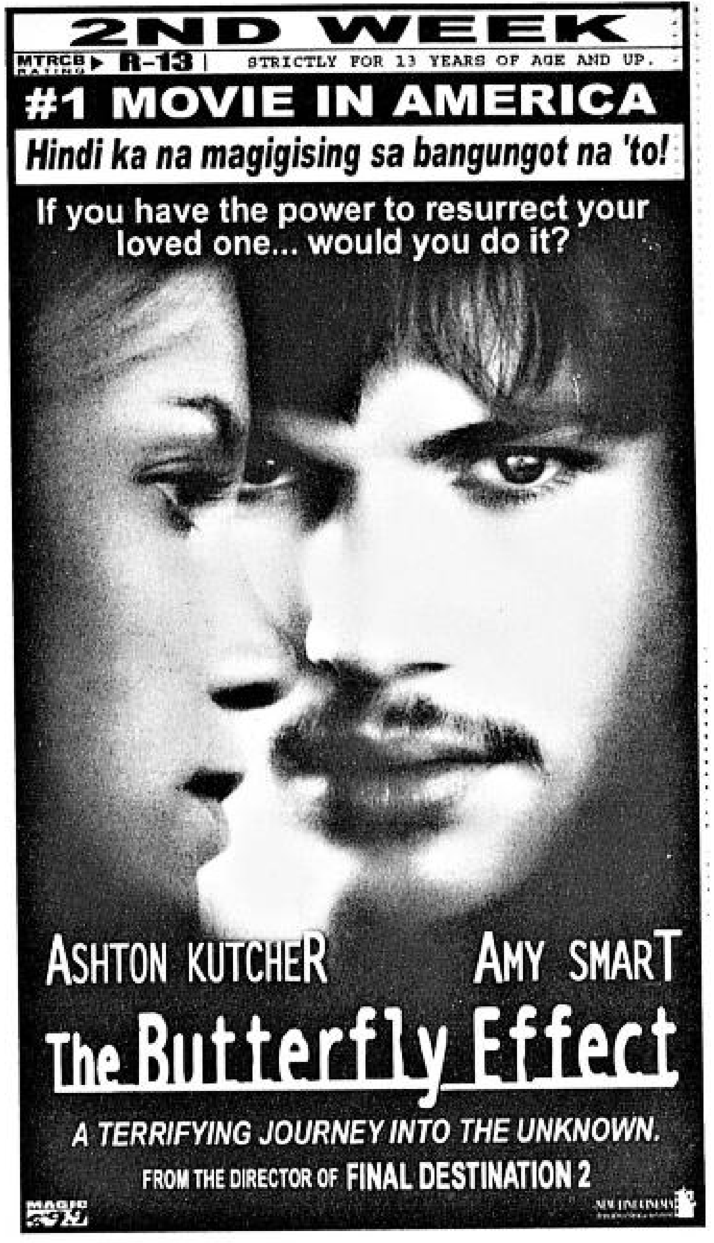
BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE AT THE GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 TICKET BOOTHS

OR BY LOGGING ON TO www.sureseats.com TO BUY TICKETS ON-LINE WITH THE M-PASS TICKET-LESS SYSTEM.

For inquiries, call 752-7880 or 82 (Glorietta 4), 893-4254 (Glorietta 1), 757-3881 to 82 (Greenbelt 3), 750-4180 to 82 (Greenbelt 1), 850-6931 (Alabang Town Center), and 032-4158488 to 89 (Ayala Center Cebu)

MTRCB RATING: PARENTAL GUIDANCE 13
Parents are strongly cautioned in bringing along kids below 10 yrs old because of some scenes that might stress their sensibilities.

ICON AYALA CINEMAS



2ND WEEK
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.
#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA
Hindi ka na magigising sa bangungot na 'to!
If you have the power to resurrect your loved one... would you do it?
ASHTON KUTCHER
AMY SMART
The Butterfly Effect
A TERRIFYING JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN.
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINAL DESTINATION 2

Roxas Boulevard 1936

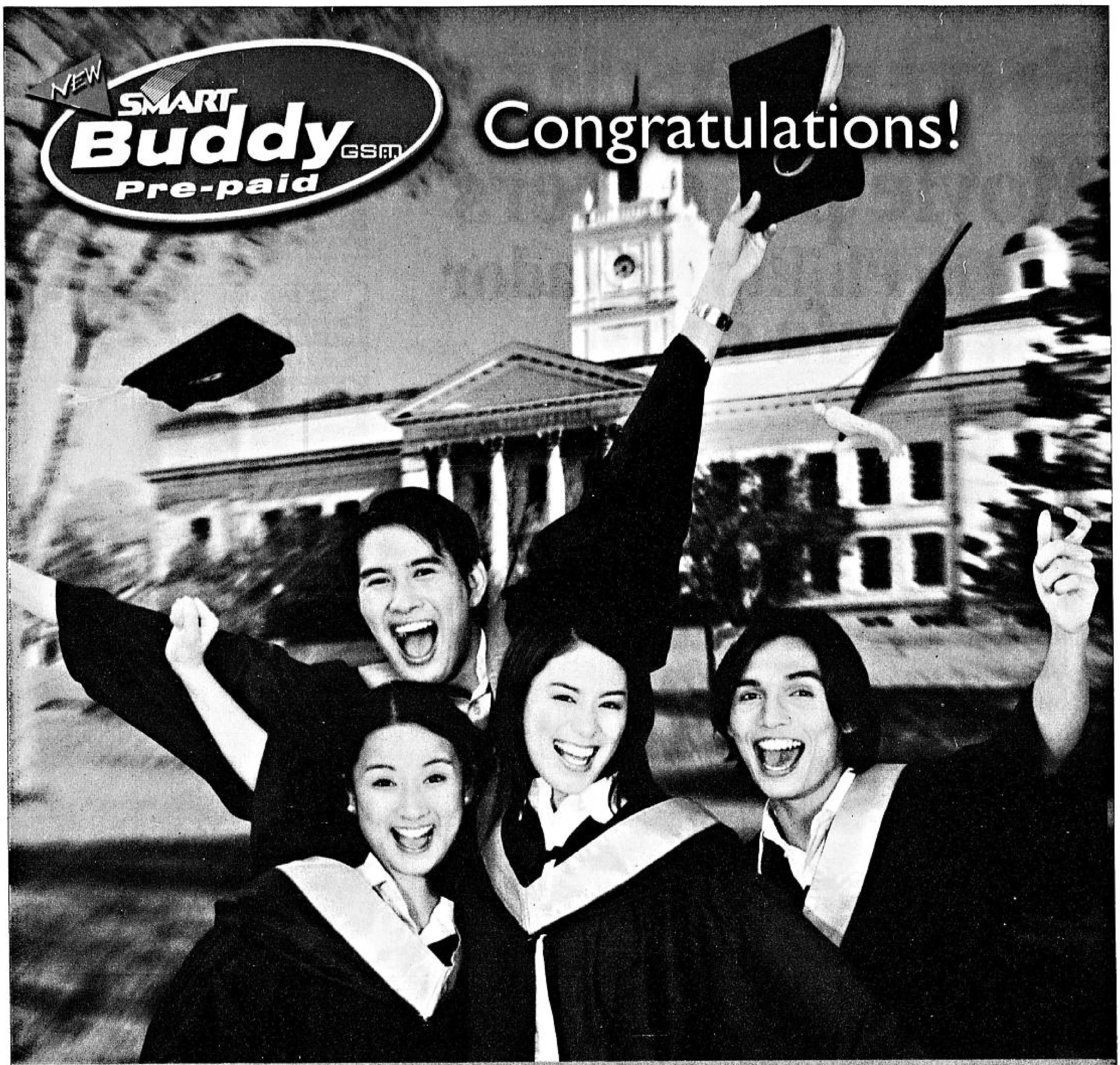
Robinson's Place Ermita 2004

CLASSIC RECIPES. NEW PLACE.
NOW OPEN AT THE 4TH LEVEL ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA

Serving our famous Chicken BBQ, Chicken Honey, Adobo Flying Saucer and many other Filipino favourites, perfected by Aristocrat since 1936.

the Aristocrat
Since 1936

SPONSORS: Aleja Blower Corporation., Bakepro Marketing, Boaz and Jachin Food Company , Del Monte Philippines, Inc., George Steuarts Philippines, Inc., Health First Global Partners Inc., Hue Wei Marketing., Micros Fidelio, Nestlé Philippines, Inc., San Miguel Corporation, Tyson-Agro Ventures Inc.



Treat Yourself!

Because you worked hard, it's high time to play harder with exciting Smart Buddy services!

music

Your access to all music!

Complete your graduation memories with songs that match those moments.

Artist	Title	Keyword	Artist	Title	Keyword
	Graduation March	GRAD1	Sharon Cuneta	High School Life	GRAD7
Christina Aguilera	I Turn To You	GRAD2	Parokya ni Edgar	Inuman Na	GRAD8
Toto	With A Little Help From My Friends	GRAD4	Queen	We Are The Champions	GRAD9
Jackson 5	I'll Be There	GRAD5			

To download a ringtone
Text **TONE** <keyword> to **209**

To download a polytone
Text **POLY** <keyword> to **209**

downloads

Give your celfone character!

Let your school spirit live on!

Logos

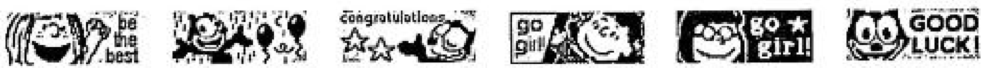
cathysmile charliegrad charliemedal docmedal felixgrad

To download a logo, text **LOGO** <keyword> to **234**.

gradl1 gradl5 gradl2 gradl6 gradl3

To download a logo, text **LOGO** <keyword> to **209**.

Picture Messages


bethebest celebrate congrats gogirl gogirl1 goodluck

To download a picture message, text **PIC** <keyword> to **234**.

MMS Images

celebrate congrats congrats1 congrats2

To download an MMS Image, text **CPIC** <keyword> to **234**.

gradm1 gradm2 gradm3 gradm5

To download an MMS Image, text **MMS** <keyword> to **209**.

Life's tough.

Good thing there's SMART Buddy services to help you and your friends survive life's toughest tests!

news & info

News & daily tips!

Your dream career awaits you. Search for it now!

Now partnering with jobstreet*, one of the most reputable online job sites, SMART Jobfinder matches your qualification with job openings both here and abroad. It's surely a more convenient way to explore your career options.

For International Job Openings
POEA 276
Text POEA to 276

For Local Job Openings
JOBS 2456
Text JOBS to 2456

For Mobile Job Street Alert
JSA 409
Text JSA to 409

To get regular job alerts, interview alerts, job short listing alerts and full resume' review.

friends

Search, Chat & Connect!

Share views and stories about graduation!

Experience an innovation in chat messaging with Lounge Chat. Chat with up to 4 people all at once.

Text !GRAD to 2943.

!GRAD 2943

Find out ways to celebrate graduation with your friends or how to start life after graduation.

Text 7WAYS to 777.

7WAYS 777

SMART
Simply Amazing!

Each text message costs P2.50. Each download costs P15.00.

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

REGALIA PARK TOWERS
P11,000++ MONTHLY
• Residential Units
• Condotel Units
• Office Units
• Commercial Units
20% DISCOUNT . NO INTEREST . LOW DP!
CALL NOW: 438 0721 - 22

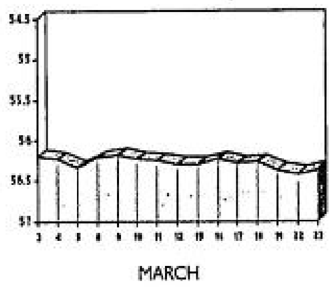
WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 24, 2004
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

The Ultimate Campaign Machine
RISO
Print anytime, anywhere at the lowest cost!
COPYLANDIA OFFICE SYSTEMS CORPORATION
Call 7476-888

Napocor to issue P5B worth of bonds

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 56.37 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 23, 2004

¥ 106.76 = $1

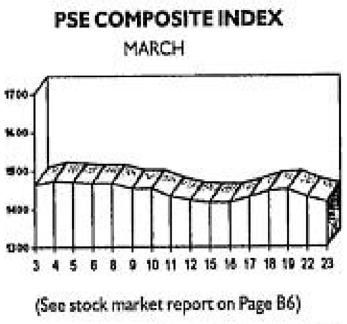
As of 5 p.m., March 23, 2004

GOLD: $416.20-416.70

per ounce Hong Kong, March 23, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower on security worries



(See stock market report on Page B6)

STOCKS ended lower yesterday in sympathy with a fall in US stocks on global security worries, but phone firm Piltel went against the trend on hopes it would merge with sister company Smart.

"Except for Piltel, local stocks followed broadly the footsteps of US stocks," Astro del Castillo, managing director of investment firm First Grade Holdings Inc., told Reuters.

On Monday, US stocks sank to new lows for this year as Israel's killing of a founder of the militant group Hamas fed global security fears.

Other analysts blamed the peso's fall to record lows for sapping market confidence.

The 33-share main stock index lost 12.94 points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,418.73 points. It has lost 1.64 percent since the start of the year.

In the broader market, losers outpaced gainers 40 to 14, while the prices of 30 issues were unchanged.

Pilipino Telephone Corp., the country's third largest mobile phone operator, gained 2.3 percent or four centavos to P1.78. It was the day's top traded issue with P127.27 million, or 26 percent of total turnover of

STOCKS/ B2

By Michelle V. Remo

STATE-OWNED National Power Corp. (Napocor) is finalizing the sale of P5 billion worth of zero coupon bonds, the proceeds of which will be used to help meet its financing requirement for the year.

According to a government official, the Department of Finance is helping process Napocor's planned domestic bond offering to hasten the transaction, which will ease the burden of the cash-strapped power utility firm. The DOF will provide sovereign guarantee for Napocor's bond offering.

Napocor has tapped the assistance of ING Bank for the sale of the zero coupon bonds. The money to be raised from the offering will be used to finance Napocor's operational expenses as well as its maturing obligations for the year, said the finance official.

The DOF and Napocor is likewise securing an opinion from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for the planned domestic borrowing.

The finance official said the government has not yet set a target date for the sale of the domestic Napocor bonds, but added that both the DOF and Napocor were working out on the bond offering to finish the deal as soon as possible.

"If we can get it before the elections, the better," the official said.

Earlier, the finance department has also approved the guarantee coverage on $500 million worth of foreign borrowings that Napocor also planned to undertake this year. The proceeds of the foreign borrowings will also be used to support Napocor's operating expenses and maturing loans.

Napocor earlier asked the DOF to guarantee $1.8 billion in borrowings, which it said was its total borrowing requirement for the entire year. The DOF, however, said it was only amenable to guaranteeing $1.5 billion worth of Napocor's scheduled borrowings for the year.

Another finance official earlier said the government considered mostly Napocor's cash requirement for the year and did not account much of its capital expenditure requirements in deciding how much of Napocor's intended borrowings for the year it would guarantee.

Gov't steps up drive against pyramiding

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is forming a special legal team that will help expedite proceedings against companies suspected of involvement in pyramiding scams.

Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima said yesterday that the team would help evaluate complaints and facilitate legal or administrative proceedings against such companies in an effort to stop pyramiding scams from taking place.

"We are strengthening our fight against pyramiding by tapping the legal expertise of the different DTI agencies to help our DTI regional/provincial arbitration officers evaluate and prosecute, if needed, certain cases," Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. added.

Cristobal has been tasked to head the special legal team, which will be composed of lawyers from various DTI bureaus and line agencies.

Apart from the creation of this team, the DTI would also be working in collaboration with the Direct Selling Association of the Philippines (DSAP) for the conduct of a joint education campaign that aims to spread awareness about pyramiding.

"The best protection of consumers against these get-rich-quick schemes is information. With this campaign, DSAP will teach their members how to spot pyramiding scams. These members will, in turn, share such know-how during their training of prospective direct sellers," Cristobal said.

He added that it was important for private sector groups like the DSAP to work in cooperation with the government as it waged war against companies that extorted consumers of their hard-earned cash through pyramiding scams.

PURISIMA

"All relevant stakeholders should actively participate in stemming this illegal practice. The DTI has also been coordinating with the Securities and Exchange Commission so that we are constantly updated with the status of the cases that are under our respective jurisdictions," he said.

He noted that over the past months, the number of inquiries on pyramiding that the DTI had been getting from both locally based and overseas Filipinos had been rising.

This proved that pyramiding had spread even to other countries, particularly where there were large concentrations of overseas Filipino workers, he said.

But Cristobal said the rising number of inquiries was also a good sign as it could mean that consumers now were more vigilant.

The DTI and the DSAP will also be setting up a secretariat that will process complaints and inquiries regarding pyramiding activities.

Prestige, Power and Pride
Get it all with Dodge Durango, THE ROAD RULER
TV/DVD
Leather Seats
Backing Sensors
DODGE
Durango 4X2
One of America's Favorites
SOME IMAGES MAY VARY FROM ACTUAL UNITS
CHRYSLER
THE VERSATILE & EXQUISITE
TOWN & COUNTRY 2004

Officially distributed by: NORKIS AUTOMOTIVE RESOURCES CORPORATION
Dealers Nationwide:

Chrysler Libertad
88 Libertad St.,
Mandaluyong City
TEL. 535-3192, 718-1921-22
FAX 535-3192, 531-6707

Chrysler Mandaluyong
503 Boni Ave. cor San Rafael St.,
Mandaluyong City
TEL: 531-9075 to 79, 534-1992
534-1990, 534-1965
FAX: 532-3398

Chrysler Quezon Avenue
1144 Quezon Avenue,
Quezon City
TEL. 411-2720/ 374-3911
FAX. 411-2721

Chrysler EDSA
449 EDSA Guadalupe,
Makati City
TEL. 882-1430, 882-6455,
531-0945, 531-4931
loc 240/ 270/ 271
FAX: 531-6707

Chrysler Cebu
A.S. Fortuna St.,
Mandaue City
TEL: (032) 345-6919 to 20
FAX: (032) 345-6910

Chrysler Iloilo
Sen. Benigno Aquino Ave.,
(Diversion Road) Iloilo City
TEL. (033)320-0536, 320-0952;
320-0587

Chrysler Bacolod
Araneta St., Singcang,
Bacolod City
TEL. (034) 435-0221 to 23
FAX (034) 433-0330

Parts and Service
Mopar PARTS

Stocks end lower

From page B1

P490.68 million.

On Monday, Smart Communications Inc said it would buy the debt of its smaller sister Piltel, paving the way for a possible merger.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the nation's dominant telecommunications group, owns all of Smart and 45.3 percent of Piltel. Smart and Piltel together hold 57 percent of the lucrative but only partially penetrated mobile market.

"If Smart successfully purchases the debt, that lessens pressure for Piltel," said AB Capital stocks analyst Jose Vistan. "If Smart eventually buys into Piltel, the technical and managerial skills could be used to further propel Piltel."

Shares of PLDT slipped 0.54 percent or P5 to P915 after the 1.58-percent fall in its American Depositary Receipts to $16.15.

The "B" shares of Manila Electric Co., the country's largest power distributor, fell 1.79 percent, or 50 centavos, to P27.50 after it reported a lower-than-expected fourth-quarter profit.
Reuters

You Can Have It All
Montana And
Money
Career
Success

Panalo ka sa kakaibang negosyong ito!

Roland
The No. 1 Choice of Signmakers around the World.

Business for the Big Boys

Billboards
Fleet Graphics
Posters & Backlits
Banners & Streamers

Fast ROI!

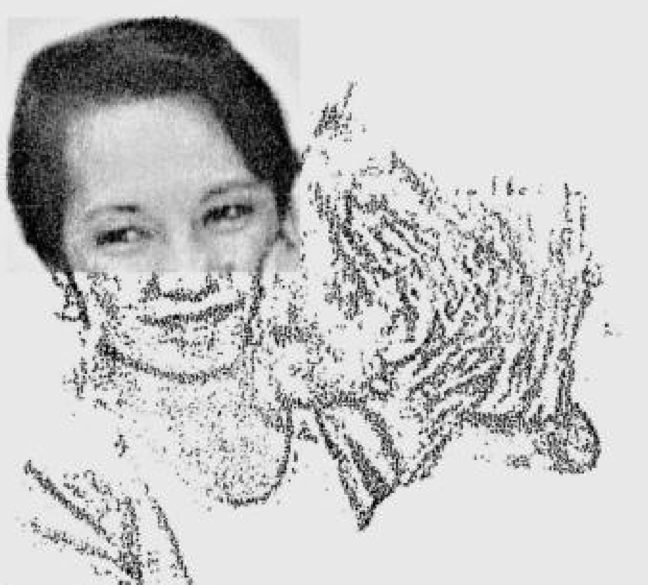
SolJet Pro II 74"

- Use solvent ink which costs 80% less than dye-based inks
- Print on tarpaulin, vinyl sticker, photopaper, backlit films, cloth
- Print up to 1440 dpi resolution
- No lamination required unlike with dye-based

Exclusive Distributor:
Tgraf TEAM GRAPHICS
Tel: 723-0601 to 10, 726-3991 to 98
Fax: 723-7951
Email: inquire@tgraf.com.ph
www.tgraf.com.ph

Other Tgraf business packages include: Xerox Phaser for Print-on-Demand, Roland Cutters for signmaking, Roland Versacamm for labels and stickers, Javelin for ID card printing, Ilford Studio digital photo enlargements for photographers, and more. Call us NOW and put yourself in a fresh, new business!!

Pag-IBIG FUND
Housing Loan Restructuring Program

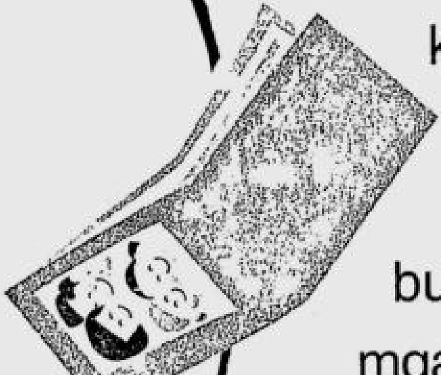


ISANG PAGKAKATAON

Para sa mga Delinquent Pag-IBIG Housing Loan Borrowers

Hanggang June 2004 lamang!

Magandang balita para sa mga may kakulangan sa pagbabayad ng housing loan sa Pag-IBIG. Sa pagnanais ni **President GLORIA** na matulungan kayo, ngayon ang inyong **HULING** pagkakataong mag-apply ng loan restructuring sa inyong pagkakautang. Hindi kailangang ma-foreclose ang inyong lupa't bahay kung kayo ay maga-avail ng loan restructuring para mapagaan ang inyong buwanang hulog, o kaya'y mapatawad ang mga penalties na ipinataw sa inyong utang.



Iwasang ma-foreclose ang inyong bahay. Mag-apply na ng loan restructuring NGAYON!

Sa pag-apply ng Loan Restructuring, tandaan:

HINDI KAILANGAN MAGING MIYEMBRO NG ANUMANG ASOSASYON. Ang Pag-IBIG ay nagsisilbi sa mga indibidwal na miyembro kaya't hindi ninyo kailangang sumali sa alinmang grupo para mag-apply ng loan restructuring.

P200 LANG ANG PROCESSING FEE.

MAG-APPLY AT MAGBAYAD LAMANG NANG DIREKTA SA Pag-IBIG. Hindi po kami tumatanggap ng fixers o ng representatives na may Special Power of Attorney.

24-hour Text Hotline
<message> send to:
-> 2990PAGIBIG (Globe)
-> 09178922990 (Smart/Talk&Text/Sun)

Mag-apply ng personal sa:

Suite 314, 315 and 316
Third Floor, Atrium Bldg.,
Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 830-0298, 848-8069
848-8297, 848-8289

Pacific Center Bldg.
San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tel. Nos.: 634-6920, 637-5632

North: Tel. Nos.: 634-8410,
637-5613 & 637-5614

Any Regional Office

Briefing on Pag-IBIG Fund's
Loan Restructuring and
Penalty Condonation Program

In line with the efforts of Pag-IBIG Fund to bring its programs closer to members, Atty. Miro Quimbo, Pag-IBIG Fund President & CEO, briefs housing loan beneficiaries in Silang, Cavite on Pag-IBIG's housing loan restructuring program which gives immediate relief to housing loan borrowers affected by the economic crisis.

Low-rise, high price

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE AYALAS are crossing Edsa and shifting the fulcrum of its high-end residential development to The Fort with a low-rise complex of condominiums whose price per square meter is at par with One Roxas Triangle, its most expensive high-rise condo by far.

The indicative unit pricing for the top-tier "District 1" of the Serendra, as the 11.6-hectare complex in The Fort is called, hovers around P100,000/square meter, VAT included.

Unlike One Roxas Triangle units whose floor areas range from 286 sq.m. to 528 sq.m., Serendra District 1 offers more affordable sizes from 68-sq.m., one-bedroom units (P6.9 million, with one parking slot) to 187-sq.m., three-bedroomers (P18.1 million, with two parking slots).

District 2, on the other hand, offers smaller chunks from 40-sq.m. studios (P3.4 million, no parking slot) to 138-sq.m. average, three-bedroom affairs (P14.8 million, with two parking slots).

A limited number of parking slots, all underground, are available for sale, at P600,000 to P650,000 per slot.

Both District 1 and 2 buildings would have a European-"bahay na bato" look, with a number of units having their own balconies. There are a host of smaller, shorter buildings within the complex, but in no case would the structures be higher than nine floors.

To further visualize the project, the twin main buildings look like two fat "W" letters placed base to base, with ground-and second-level food and retail shops occupying a rotunda-like intersection and lining up the promenade that separates the two districts.

The single-level residential units are juxtaposed on each side of the building, one row looking out the street/promenade and one row looking out an indoor park. A corridor on each floor runs down like a spine throughout the entire length of each building.

The corridors, in turn, feature air wells every so often that provide a natural break and ventilation, which should bring down electricity cost for the residents association.

The main attraction of Serendra is that 2/3 of the land area is devoted to greenery/open space, with the outer perimeter ringed by hedges and pocket gardens to provide buffer space from the sidewalks.

The downside of this green space and bigger land area, District 1 and 2 occupy 3.8 hectares of the 11.6-hectare Serendra complex, is that the association 'would have to hire more guards to provide perimeter and indoor security, employ more gardeners and consume more water, on top of the high-maintenance swimming pools, to live up to standards.

Water rates at The Fort, incidentally, costs almost twice as high as what consumers pay in the Ayala water concession area.

No numbers have been crunched yet, but the monthly association dues should not exceed the levels at the high-end Salcedo Village condos that Ayala also built, according to a briefing held for analysts Monday.

Serendra still has yet to receive its sales license, but Ayala has already constructed a sales office, complete with fully furnished model units, at the site.

Heard through the grapevine

TAIPAN Henry Sy has signed up IMax to become its flagship theatre in the Mall of Asia, the country's and arguably the region's largest shopping complex.

IMax originally had its heart on The Fort, and had even made a modest down payment to developer Metro Pacific, until the currency crisis and the resultant debt woes prompted Metro Pacific not only to scuttle the project but sell out of The Fort as well.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

PLDT offer on Piltel debt has no rating impact

STANDARD & Poor's Ratings Services said yesterday that the invitation issued by Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) to its affiliate Pilipino Telephone Co.'s (Piltel) creditors to offer to sell their debt in Piltel does not in itself have an impact on Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s (PLDT) BB/Stable credit rating or outlook.

Smart has invited Piltel's creditors to offer to sell their Piltel debt through a number of debt exchange options. These options are designed to enable Smart to buy Piltel's debt at about 50-55 percent of its book value of P23 billion.

Smart plans to proceed with the transaction if at least 75 percent of Piltel's existing creditors (by value) agree to sell their debt using one of these options. The PLDT group currently holds 45 percent of Piltel's common equity. It also holds 59 million convertible preferred shares (CPS) in Piltel. *Reuters*

HANDRICH Basic Payroll - P1,990
- Windows based
- Easy to set-up, unlimited no. of employees
- Computes w/holding tax, SSS, P/health & Pag-ibig w/ remittances report
- SSS, P/health & Tax Tables can be modified
- Computes OT, Ecola & 13th Month Pay
- Ability to monitor loans & deductions
- Generates Payslip & Payroll Journal
- Generates data for BIR/Alpha list at year end
- Provides on line database for employees' 201 file

Handrich School Management System- P29,900
- Windows based, user friendly (for Elem. & Hi-School)
- Can register & enroll unlimited no. of students
- Computerized assessment, reservation & payment
- User defined payment plans for school fees, others
- User defined grading system
- Monitors students' accts. & prints statement of acct
- Provides on line data base for students' file

Handrich Sales & Inventory System- P19,900
- Windows based, multi-user, user friendly
- Features available upon request

(Free Demo at our Office for all of the above Programs)

HANDRICH Advance Computer Sytems, Inc.
31 Narra St. Proj 3, Quirino Dist , Quezon City
Tel. No. 995-0987, Tel. fax-436-1327

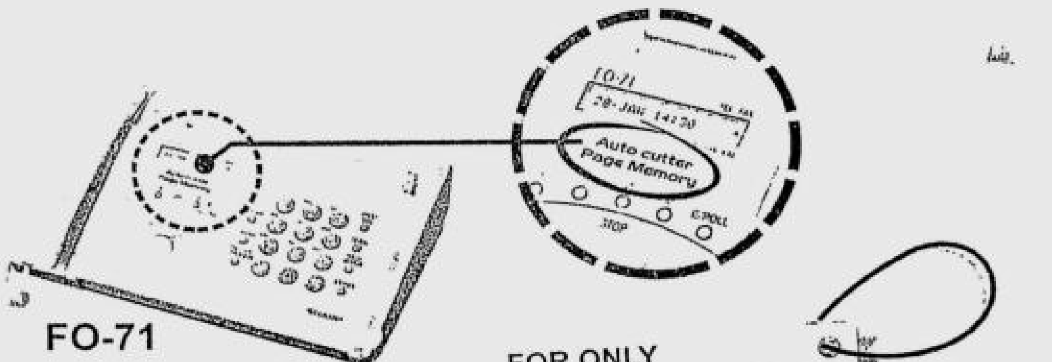
one of the best managed fastfood chain of 2003

BE A DnD FRANCHISEE
and cash-in on our 12 year track record of profits.

Turn-key franchises start as low as P450,000*.
Cart*, Kiosk and Restaurant sites available
Call us for more information.

PRIME PACIFIC CORPORATION | Tel : 721-9695 to 98 | Fax : 722-6751 | Email : ppc acctg@vasia.com

NEVER MISS AN IMPORTANT FAX MESSAGE
With
The Sharp
Out of paper memory
Advantage
Stores as much as 448Kb out of paper memory (approx. 17 pages)



FO-71

FOR ONLY
P 6,288

SHARP
FAX MACHINE

Thank you for making us No. 1

ASTECH PENGSON

Earn as high as 3.5%!

PSBank

US Dollar Time Deposit Rates*

	$1,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000 & up
1 Month	2.500%	2.750%	3.000%
2 Months	2.750%	3.000%	3.250%
3 Months	3.000%	3.250%	3.500%
6 Months	3.250%	3.250%	3.500%
12 Months	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%

*Quoted rates are for a limited time only and are subject to change without prior notice. Rates are on per annum basis and subject to 7.5% withholding tax.

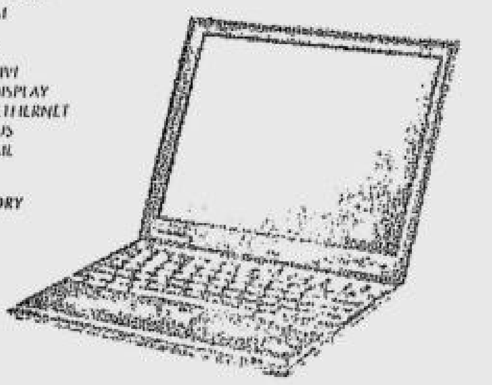
For inquiries, visit any PSBank branch or call our offices in:
Metro Manila 885-8239, 885-8208 (local 8637, 8640, 8642)
Cebu (032)255-1483, 255-1971; Davao (082)222-5001. 222-4280

IBM

Pay 0% Interest and Get 100% performance with your IBM Thinkpad.

only 5,491.67 for 12 months!!!
Promo price 65,900

R40e AA9
- INTEL MOBILE P4 2.0GHZ
- 128MB DDR SDRAM
- 30GB HDD
- 24X CDROM DRIVE
- 1.44MB FLOPPY DRIVE
- 14.1" TFT COLOR DISPLAY
- 56K FAX MODEM/ ETHERNET
- NORTON ANTIVIRUS
- WINDOWS XP HOME
- 2.7 KGS
- 1 YR WARRANTY
- FREE 128MB MEMORY



R40 AA3
INTEL CENTRINO P4 1.4GHZ
CDRW DVD DRIVE (COMBO)
14" TFT COLOR DISPLAY
NORTON ANTIVIRUS
only 7,658.33
for 12 months!!! Promo 91,900

G40 5LA
24X CDRW DVD DRIVE (COMBO)
15" TFT COLOR DISPLAY
FREE 256MB MEMORY
only 14,483.33
for 6 months!!! Promo 86,900

X31 I2A
INTEL CENTRINO P4 1.4GHZ
12.1" TFT COLOR DISPLAY
3 YRS. WARRANTY
only 14,150
for 6 months!!! Promo 84,900

R40e AA5
24X CDRW DVD DRIVE (COMBO)
NORTON ANTIVIRUS
FREE 256MB MEMORY
only 29,966.67
for 3 months!!! Promo 89,900

Get a IBM Thinkpad with Intel Mobile or Wireless Centrino for as low as
Php 5,491.67 per month
and avail of *0% interest for 12 months!*

Do you really need to THINK about it?

ACCENT-MICRO PRODUCTS INC
Cyberzone SM Megamall: 634 2417 634 1291
Cyberzone SM City: 426 9829 927-2130
Festival Mall Alabang: 771-0779
SM Cebu City: (032) 232-0462 232-0461

PC-LIVE
Cyberzone SM Megamall: 633 1722, 634 2330
Cyberzone SM City: 925 5680

VillMan

Because sometimes the ideas that help your office happen anywhere but the office.

At Wi-Fi* hotspots like airports, cafe and hotels, Neo Q-Note wireless notebook PCs with Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology are ready when inspiration strikes. Invest in them today.

centrino MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

Neo Q-Note EW1B
- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology:
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 1.40 GHz
  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless 2100 LAN 3B Mini PCI Adapter
- 256 MB DDR Memory
- 30GB Hard Disk Drive
- 15" TFT Screen
- DVD-ROM/CDRW/CDROM
- Ethernet LAN Card / 56Kbps Modem
- 1394 Firewire Port / 2X USB 2.0 ports
- 4-in-1 Smart Media Card Reader

For only
Php 64,999.00

Neo Q-Note Z500E
- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 1.40 GHz
  - Intel® 855GM Chipset
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless 2100 LAN 3B Mini PCI Adapter
- 256 MB DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive
- 15" TFT Screen
- ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 Display Adaptor 32MB
- DVD-ROM/CDRW/CDROM
- Ethernet LAN Card / 56Kbps Modem
- 1394 Firewire Port / 4X USB 2.0 ports
- 4-in-1 Smart Media Card Reader

For only
Php 72,999.00

Neo Q-Note Series comes with Free Carry Case and One Year Warranty on Parts and Service

Recommended Operating System: Microsoft Windows XP

NEO
Q-NOTE SERIES

Intel, Intel Inside, the Intel Inside logo, Intel Centrino and the Intel Centrino logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries.

Visit your Neo Reseller Today!
RETAIL : ARX / Platinum Computers 6320991 ♥ Complink Marketing 6373088 / 6316068 ♥ Compex International 6331801 ♥ PC Corner 7231718 / 6318788 ♥ PC Express Plus 7270965 / 6076492 ♥ Villman Computers 926 7322 / 683 0532
CORPORATE : Astral Data Systems 3728017 ♥ Microgenesis Business Systems 8930551 ♥ Total Quality Machines 5284503 ♥ Unison Computer Systems 3745888 ♥ Zenshin Computer 3650536
PROVINCIAL: Concept Computer Center Iloilo 033(3376874) ♥ Delta Merchandising Iloilo (033)3364509 ♥ Electroworld (032)2320751 Cebu / (033)3204832 Iloilo / (082)3462780 Davao ♥ King's Technology Davao 082(2214653)

Visit our Showroom Digital Playground at the 4L Cyberzone, Bldg. B, SM Megamall For more info. dial PC MANIA (02-7262642) or email neo@glee.com.ph

Corn production in Q1 up 8%

By Christine A. Gaylican

FAVORABLE weather conditions in the first three months helped push up the country's corn production by 8 percent to 1 million metric tons.

Data from the Bureau of Agriculture Statistics showed that corn production from January to March hit 1.011 million MT from the 942,150 MT harvested in the same period last year.

The good production raised the Agriculture Department's hopes that corn production would continue to improve in the second quarter.

"For the second quarter, the BAS has forecast a 10 percent increase in corn production," Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo said in an interview.

This was partly based on the assumption that good weather will hold.

Farm gate prices of corn also increased during the period to between P9 and P 10 per kilo, from last year's P7 to P8 per kilo.

DA Corn Program Director Artemio Salazar said the government was helping corn farmers reduce crop losses by promoting the wider use of hybrid corn varieties and more efficient pest management systems.

The DA is pressing for an increase in corn production to reduce dependence on imports.

The government imports about 1 million tons of corn a year as local corn production of 4.5 million tons is short of the required 5.5 million tons.

One of the options being considered is the immediate replanting after harvests or the quick turn-around scheme, which is currently employed in rice plantations.

"Through the QTA, we hope to increase corn hectarage to 650,000 hectares instead of the (targeted) 624,000 hectares," added Salazar.

SEC approves regulations over new trading systems

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the rules governing the operation of alternative trading systems.

SEC chair Lilia R. Bautista said the rules are scheduled to take effect by mid-April after notices are published in newspapers.

As defined in the SEC's rules, an ATS provides an electronic marketplace where investors can purchase securities issued by SEC-registered small and medium-scale enterprises as well as technology-based ventures and growth firms.

To qualify, the ATS-applicant must register as a broker-dealer and submit certified documents that contain the trading and disclosure rules that will govern the trading of securities.

Bautista said earlier that the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) was interested in applying for the license to operate an electronic trading facility.

In the US, ATS or electronic communication networks (ECNs) account for roughly a third of trading at the tech-heavy Nasdaq.

Examples include Instinet, Island, Bloomberg Tradebook, Archipelago, and Wolfex.

The Philippine Stock Exchange opposed the operation of ATS, saying that these might duplicate the PSE's functions without being subjected to the same rigid requirements.

"Implementing an ATS as provided in the proposed rules will only reverse the efforts of the Manila and Makati stock exchanges to consolidate toward efficiency and enforcement of integrity," the PSE said earlier in a position paper.

KOREA TRADE CENTER, MANILA

ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TRADE FAIRS
IN SEOUL, KOREA :

SEOUL FOOD 2004
(Seoul International Food Exhibition)
on April 19 to 22nd at COEX in Seoul

EXHIBIT ITEMS: All food products, food additives, raw materials, food equipment and machineries, bakery, beverages, liquor, coffee, tea and etc.

***ASSE 2004**
(Asia Science & Laboratory Instrument Exhibition)
on April 21~24th at KOTREX in Daegu

EXHIBIT ITEM: Chemical process technology, control technology, quality assurance and testing systems, assays, test kit and procedures, chemistry and gases, chromatography, diagnostic systems, educational, training instruments, instrumental analysis tech, lab. apparatus, ,and automation tech, microscopy spectroscopy and optical image analysis tech

KOREA PACK 2004
(The 9th Korea International Packaging Exhibition)
on May 11~14th at COEX in Seoul

EXHIBIT ITEMS: Food packaging, processing machinery and materials, pharmaceuticals, cosmetic packaging machinery and materials, and etc

SEOUL CONSUMER 2004
(Seoul International Consumer Goods Fair)
on May 19 to 22nd at SETEC in Seoul

EXHIBIT ITEMS: All consumer products such as kitchenwares, gift items, home decors, interiors, upholsteries,furnitures, cosmetics, health, sports and leisure products, home appliances, jewelries and watches, etc.

BUSINESSMEN WHO ARE INTERESTED TO ATTEND ANY OF THE ABOVE FAIRS, PLEASE CALL AT ANY OF THE FF TEL. NOS.: 893-1183, 893-3244, and 812-4079/ Fax. 817-3369 FOR MORE DETAILS . *FOR ASSE 2004 ATTENDEES, WE PROVIDE THREE (3) NIGHTS HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, FREE OF CHARGE

SEC to extend compliance audit of brokers

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is set to conduct an extended audit of 12 brokers earlier found to have violated securities regulations.

Markets Regulation department director Jose Aquino said the Compliance and Surveillance Group—or the Philippine Stock Exchange's unit that monitors compliance with exchange rules—would be commissioned to verify the results of an earlier joint audit done on the brokers.

The audit was conducted by the PSE and SEC.

"They've corrected their deficiencies but there is a need to extend the audit to validate the claim that they are in compliance (with rules)," Aquino said.

These rules are designed, among others, to ensure the financial capability of the PSE member-brokers to handle customers' trades.

Aquino, however, declined to name the concerned brokers.

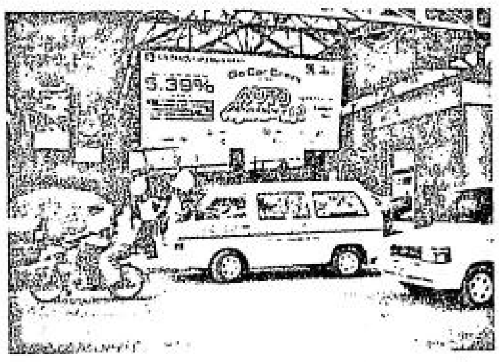
SEC earlier said it would intensify its compliance monitoring this year to ensure that registered companies comply with the country's securities laws and the corporate watchdog's rules and regulations.

In line with this, the SEC said it would implement the Compliance Monitoring and Evaluation System.

The CMES is an automated facility to monitor the compliance of registered entities with government laws and regulations. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

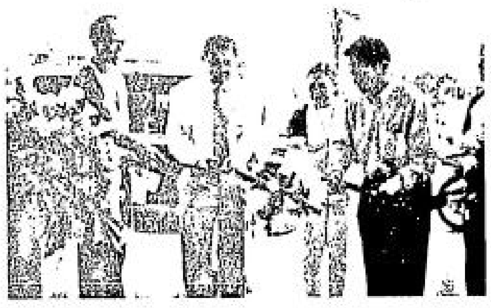
Go Car Crazy With Happy Family Auto Loan's Provincial Auto Madness!

BPI Family Savings Bank's Auto Madness Provincial Caravan kicked off in Cebu City last March 11-14. This was followed by more car crazy invasions in Cagayan de Oro last March 17-21, and in Lipa and Bacolod simultaneously last March 19-21.



CAGAYAN DE ORO participating dealers preparing for the opening day motorcade

All the Auto Madness events were well attended. Visitors were quite impressed with having all the latest car models from their provincial dealerships under one roof. It was an awesome and exciting affair for everyone as car buyers were treated to low, low interest rates PLUS world-class treats for FREE!

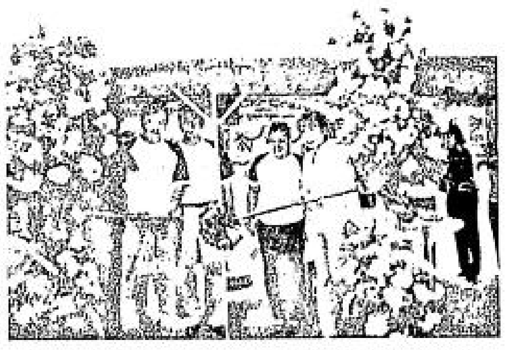


Ribbon cutting at CAGAYAN DE ORO: (L-R) AVP Ira Nepomuceno, VP Loi Montilla, Mgr. Agnes Aragon & SVP Dave Sarmiento

Car buyers with a minimum amount financed of P450,000 were treated to FREE Family Fun Adventures packages. This entitled clients to an overnight stay for a family of four in any one of Happy Family Auto Loan's partner hotels and resorts!

Mgr. Agnes Aragon, VP Danny Kimseng, AVP Frankie Ramos, VP Boy Retuya during ribbon cutting ceremonies on opening day in CEBU

Loyal clients, on the other hand, who booked a repeat auto loan with BPI Family Savings Bank, received a FREE Treat for Repeat showcase of their choice. Clients chose from a variety of truly useful showcases such as: Dad's Car Care Tools; Mom's Kitchen Corner; Family Picnic Picks (Outdoor/Camping Accessories); Family Carry Alls (Travel Bag Set) and Kids' Fun Fest (Sports Equipment and Board Games).



Ribbon Cutting at LIPA: (L-R) AVP Allan de la Cruz, AVP Jay Santos, Mgr. Agnes Aragon, SVP Nita Claravall

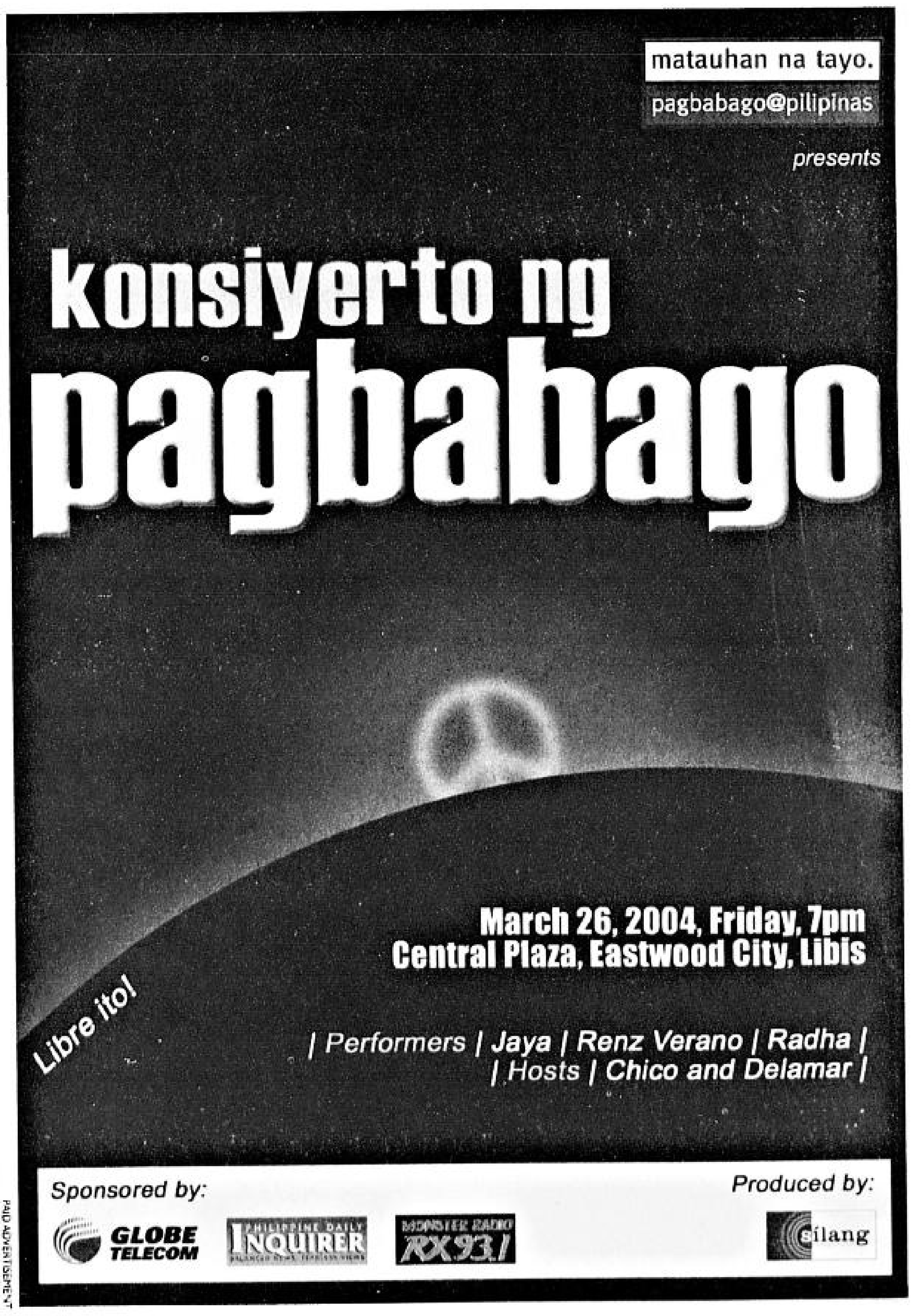
If you happen to be a provincial resident or on vacation, do check out the car crazy treats and discounts at Happy Family Auto Loan's Auto Madness! There are more Auto Madness events to come at a city near you! Watch out for it in:

- * Dagupan: March 26-28
- * Pampanga: March 26-28
- * Davao: March 26-28

Clients and Guests checking on the latest car models on display at LIPA

See you there!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



matauhan na tayo.
pagbabago@pilipinas
presents

konsiyerto ng pagbabago

March 26, 2004, Friday, 7pm
Central Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis

| Performers | Jaya | Renz Verano | Radha |
| Hosts | Chico and Delamar |

Sponsored by: GLOBE TELECOM · PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER · MONSTER RADIO RX93.1

Produced by: Gilang

IGLF earmarks P500M for garments industry

THE INDUSTRIAL Guarantee and Loan Fund (IGLF) has earmarked P500 million for the development of the country's garments industry, which is preparing for a fully liberalized trading regime in the world market next year.

IGLF is a unit created through an agreement between the national government and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It is aimed at boosting the country's small- and medium-scale industry sector.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, who chairs the IGLF review committee, said that giving the garments industry all the support it needed was necessary to maintain its export performance despite the lifting of the quota system next year.

The garments sector is the country's second-biggest dollar earner following the electronics industry. It generated $209 million in exports last month.

Some members of the sector, however, have expressed fear that the lifting of the quota system next year, as mandated by the World Trade Organization, might adversely affect the performance of Philippine garments.

Currently enjoying one of the biggest quota allocations, the Philippines will have to contend with tough competition from other suppliers once the quota system is lifted.

Neri said the P500-million fund would be used to finance modernization programs of garments manufacturers, which covered the establishment of additional facilities.

Neri said garments manufacturers may avail themselves of the IGLF's credit program through accredited institutions of the Development Bank of the Philippines. DBP has been administering IGLF transactions since 1990.

Neri, who is also the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said the assistance to the garments industry was only one of the several support programs of the IGLF.

He said the IGLF last year surpassed the P1-billion mark in terms of released financial support. He added that the fund released last year was the biggest since the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

The average amount of funds released by the IGLF stood at P1.7 billion per year during the pre-crisis time.

IGLF chief executive officer Panser Tumangan said the IGLF's gross revenue last year was recorded at P276 million, or higher than its P261-million target.

Michelle V. Remo

Budget deficit widens

THE COUNTRY'S February budget deficit widened 9.4 percent to P34.6 billion from a year earlier as revenue fell short of target, the finance department said Tuesday.

The January budget deficit was P16.1 billion.

In February alone, government revenue fell short by P18.4 billion compared to expenditures. In the same month last year, the deficit stood at P17.7 billion.

Revenue in the two-month period amounted to P97.7 billion against total expenditures of P132.3 billion.

The government has not set monthly deficit ceilings for the whole year but for the first quarter, the ceiling was set at P58.9 billion.

The government aims to limit the budget deficit at P197.8 billion this year, or about 4.2 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

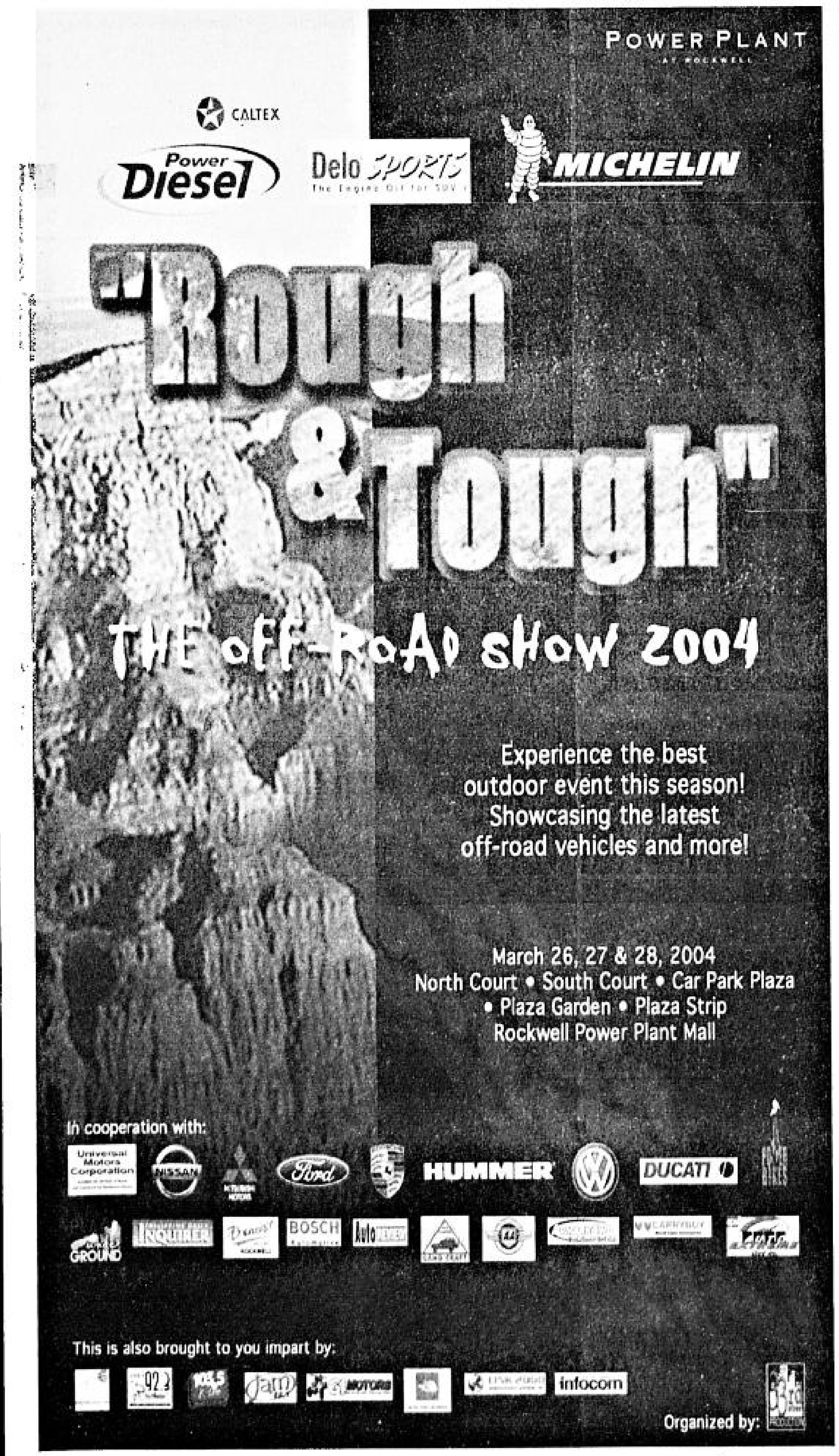
The deficit in 2003 was P199.9 billion or 4.6 percent of the GDP.

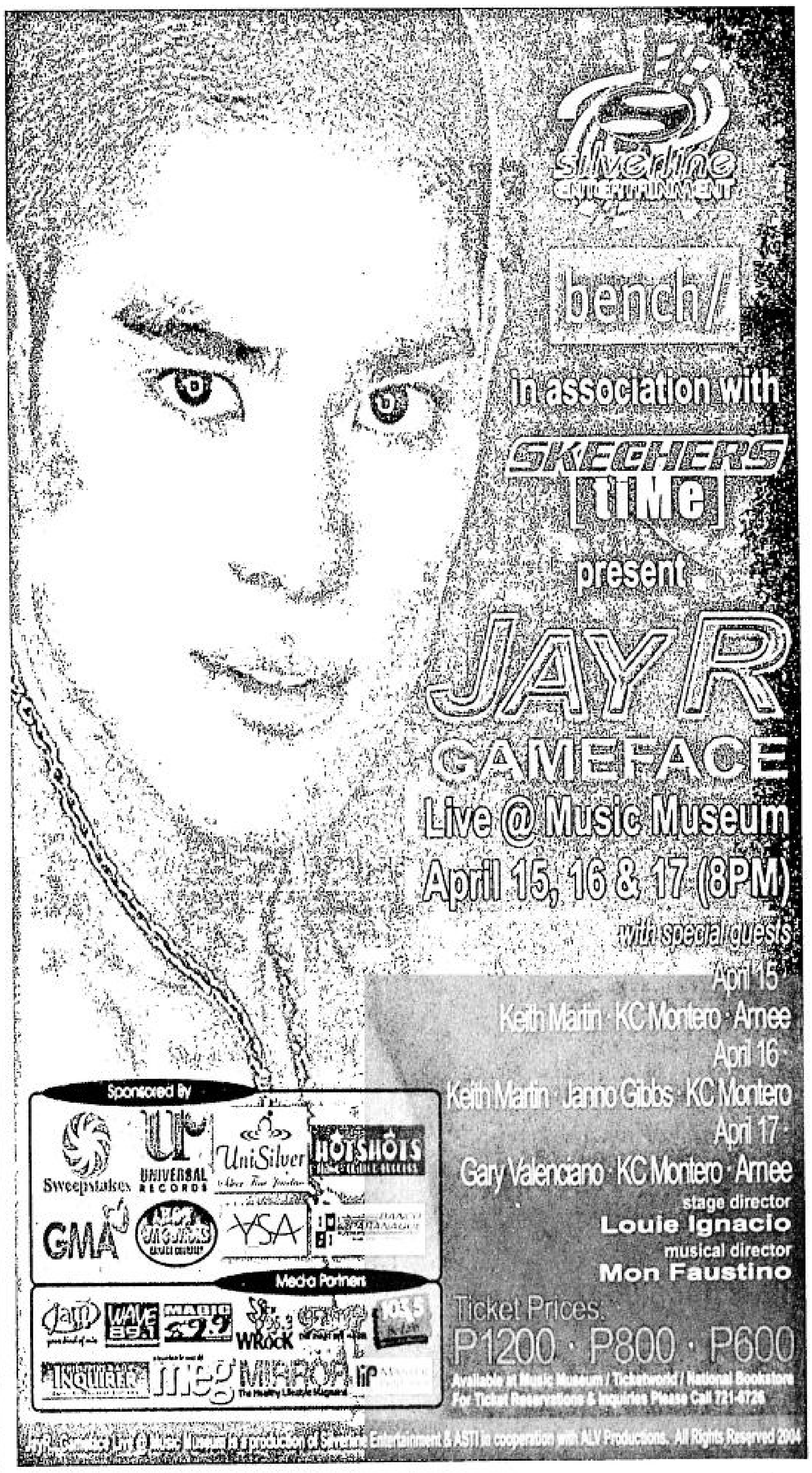
AFP

ASTHMA NEBULIZER
- Handy & Portable
- Piston Motor Operated
- Made in Italy
- w/ Thermal Protect
- w/ a System Designed for children

CONDOR 2 NEBULIZER
STAR MILLS PAMPANGA 2nd Floor 45-636-3513
SM MANILA [illegible]
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr. Bldg. A 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW [illegible]
SM NORTH EDSA [illegible]
CEBU 262-32-39
SM SOUTHMALL [illegible]
ROBINSONS GALLERIA [illegible]

SPEAK UP.
DON'T COVER UP.
Report companies using pirated software.
P1,000,000.00* Reward
* Terms and conditions apply
Anti-piracy hotlines:
819-5897 (Metro Manila)
1-800-1-888-8787 (outside Metro Manila)
or visit www.bsa.org
BSA BUSINESS SOFTWARE ALLIANCE
ADOBE • APPLE • AUTODESK • AVID • BENTLEY SYSTEMS • BORLAND • CNC SOFTWARE / MASTERCAM • INTERNET SECURITY SYSTEMS • MACROMEDIA • MICROSOFT • NETWORK ASSOCIATES • SOLIDWORKS • SYBASE • SYMANTEC • UGS PLM SOLUTIONS • VERITAS SOFTWARE


POWER PLANT AT ROCKWELL
CALTEX
Power Diesel
Delo SPORTS
MICHELIN
"Rough & Tough"
THE off-RoAD sHoW 2004
Experience the best outdoor event this season! Showcasing the latest off-road vehicles and more!
March 26, 27 & 28, 2004
North Court • South Court • Car Park Plaza • Plaza Garden • Plaza Strip
Rockwell Power Plant Mall
In cooperation with:
Universal Motors Corporation
NISSAN
Ford
HUMMER
DUCATI
GROUND
INQUIRER
BOSCH
This is also brought to you impart by:
infocom
Organized by:


Silverline Entertainment
bench/
in association with
SKECHERS
[tiMe]
present
JAY R
GAMEFACE
Live @ Music Museum
April 15, 16 & 17 (8PM)
with special guests
April 15
Keith Martin · KC Montero · Arnee
April 16
Keith Martin · Janno Gibbs · KC Montero
April 17
Gary Valenciano · KC Montero · Arnee
stage director
Louie Ignacio
musical director
Mon Faustino
Ticket Prices:
P1200 · P800 · P600
Available at Music Museum / Ticketworld / National Bookstore
For Ticket Reservations & Inquiries Please Call 721-6726
Sponsored By
Sweepstakes
UNIVERSAL RECORDS
UniSilver
HOTSHOTS
GMA
YSA
Media Partners
WAVE 89.1
MAGIC 99.9
WRocK
INQUIRER
meg
MIRROR
JayR Gameface Live @ Music Museum is a production of Silverline Entertainment & ASTI in cooperation with ALV Productions. All Rights Reserved 2004

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 23, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	18	17.5	17.75	52,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	45	44.5	44.5	100,000
China Banking Corp.	680	680	680	680	128,220
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39	39	38.5	38.5	65,700
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	140,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.25	79,700
Philippine National Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	4,400
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	15,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	25.5	25.5	3,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	180	180	180	180	60
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1455	1455	1430	1430	230
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23	23.25	22.75	22.75	28,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.68	1,760,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	850	850	845	845	24,600
ISM Communications Corp.	0.038	0.038	0.036	0.036	6,300,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.74	1.78	1.74	1.74	10,448,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	925	925	920	920	70,940
Ivantage Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	30,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.011	0.012	219,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19	19	18.5	18.5	26,200
Manila Electric Co. B	30	30	28	28	928,800
Petron Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	519,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2	2	2	2	18,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	39,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3	3	3	3	129,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	230,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.52	1.56	1.52	1.56	400,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	17	16.5	16.5	507,400
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	56.5	55	56	124,600
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	70.5	69	69.5	24,300
Universal Robina Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	20,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	20,000
Ayala Corp.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	3,322,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	2,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1	1	1	1	140,000
APC Group Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	1,000,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	35,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.57	28,910,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	900,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	520,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.024	0.024	0.021	0.021	2,400,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	60,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22	22	21.25	21.5	141,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	400,000
Ionics Inc.	1.36	1.6	1.36	1.6	52,000
Megaworld Corp.	1	1.02	1	1	520,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	20,710,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	500,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	290,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	80,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.0975	0.085	0.0975	3,100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	101,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	6,352,000
Pryce Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	15,550,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	150,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	12,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.5	23.5	23	23	1,314,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	400	400	400	400	580
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	974,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	60,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	4,000,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	20,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1	1	1	1	350,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.185	1,820,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	300,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	300,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	487,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	3,171,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.205	0.195	0.205	1,040,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	250,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	11,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	12,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	270,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	340,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	100,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	70,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	20,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.03	0.034	0.028	0.03	1,800,000

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Bank of Communications announced the election of Antonio Quila as director. Also, the bank will increase its authorized capital stock by P3 billion by creating new preferred shares at a par value of P25.

* * *

SAN Miguel Properties Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 27, 2 p.m. at the Board Room, 24/F of San Miguel Properties Centre, Mandaluyong City. Stockholders of record as of March 12 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Globe Telecom Inc.** were Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Delfin Lazaro, Lim Chuan Poh, Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Gerardo Ablaza Jr., Romeo Bernardo, Lucas Chow, Roberto de Ocampo, Xavier Loinaz, Guillermo Luchangco and Jesus Tambunting.

* * *

F & J Prince Holdings Corp. has postponed to a still undetermined date its stockholders' meeting which was originally set for April 12, saying it has yet to complete its annual report.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Trust Company moved its annual stockholders' meeting to July 27, from April 27, in time for the scheduled increase in its authorized capital stock from P17 billion to P22 billion and its paid-up capital from P3.683 billion to P5 billion.

* * *

PHILODRILL Corp. and **Anglo Philippine Holdings Corp.** signed a farm-out agreement with Rock Oil International Inc. (ROII), covering the terms and conditions for ROII's earning of additional interests in Service Contract No. 6A. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

March 23, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.810569831	1.000000	56.4290
Japan	Yen	0.007587	0.009360	0.5282
United Kingdom	Pound	1.496879	1.846700	104.2074
Hongkong	Dollar	0.104016	0.128324	7.2412
Switzerland	Franc	0.644691	0.795355	44.8811
Canada	Dollar	0.607943	0.750019	42.3228
Singapore	Dollar	0.480053	0.592242	33.4196
Australia	Dollar	0.611243	0.754091	42.5526
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.150109	2.652590	149.6830
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.216158	0.266674	15.0481
Brunei	Dollar	0.478636	0.590493	33.3209
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000095	0.000117	0.0066
Thailand	Baht	0.020557	0.025361	1.4311
UAE	Dirham	0.220689	0.272264	15.3636
Euro	Euro	1	1.233700	69.6165
ArgentinaPeso	0.282921	0.349040	19.6960	
Brazil	REAL	0.278451	0.343525	19.3848
Denmark	Kroner	0.134278	0.165659	9.3480
India	Rupee	0.017996	0.022202	1.2528
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213336	0.263193	14.8517
Mexico	New Peso	0.073856	0.091116	5.1416
New Zealand	Dollar	0.536837	0.662296	37.3727
Norway	Kroner	0.118614	0.146334	8.2575
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014166	0.017476	0.9862
South Africa	Rand	0.125619	0.154976	8.7451
Korea	Won	0.0007	0.000864	0.0488
Sweden	Kroner	0.108542	0.133908	7.5563
Syria	Pound	0.015702	0.019372	1.0931
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024459	0.030175	1.7027
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000423	0.000522	0.0295

BSP considering $500M in new borrowings

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is testing the waters for a fresh $500 million worth of financing which will be used to help stabilize the volatile peso-dollar exchange rate.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said the BSP had received financing proposals so it invited banks to offer more suggestions.

"We just asked for proposals. We told them if we wanted to borrow $500 million, what form and what rates will we get?" Buenaventura said.

The BSP chief said the borrowing might not necessarily be raised through bonds.

Asked whether the timing was right for a dollar borrowing, Buenaventura said: "We might just as well find out for ourselves. If the rates are not reasonable, we'll drop it."

He said there was no rush to complete the fund-raising before the elections. The BSP was originally planning to raise the amount in the second half of the year, but it said it was willing to fast-track its borrowing if opportunities were there.

The planned $500 million in borrowing represents the remaining amount needed by the BSP to cover debts that are maturing this year.

The peso has been falling to historic lows in recent days—hitting 56.45 to $1 on Monday—due to concerns on the country's dwindling foreign reserves. Traders said the BSP had unloaded dollars at the Philippine Dealing System to prevent further depreciation.

It was earlier reported that the country's gross international reserves likewise fell to $15.76 billion as of end-February from $16.08 billion in January on foreign exchange outflows arising from public sector debt servicing.

At the same time, the BSP's net international reserves, inclusive of revaluation of reserve assets and reserve-related liabilities, decreased to $12.889 billion as of end-February from $13.17 billion a month ago.

Globe taps underwriters for $100M in 5-yr loan

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom Inc. has tapped Standard Chartered Bank, BNP Paribas and Sumitomo Mitsui Bank to underwrite a $100-million 5-year foreign loan that will be used to partly finance the company's $350-million expansion program this year.

Globe chief finance officer Delfin Gonzales Jr. said the company was also completing negotiations for another P2.5 billion ($50 million) worth of loan with a local bank, bringing its total scheduled borrowings to about $150 million.

Proceeds of the loans will be used to fund capital outlay, particularly the installation of about 1,000 new cell sites to expand Globe's wireless business.

Currently, Ayala-owned Globe has 2,600 cell sites that can accommodate about 13 million subscribers and the additional 1,000 cell sites will be good for another 3 million subscribers. As of end-2003, the company had 8.9 million subscribers.

Within the year, Globe said it would redeem $175 million worth of bonds maturing in 2009.

Gonzales said the company had signed a $50-million loan with Credit Lyonnaise and DBS Bank on top of the P3-billion it had raised early this year from a bond issue. The two borrowings brought in $100 million while the remaining $75 million would come from internally-generated funds.

PAGPAPAHAYAG SA PUBLIKO

ISANG SERBISYONG PAMPUBLIKO PARA SA KAPAKANAN NG AMING MGA MAMIMILI

AREA	SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE OF PORTLAND CEMENT (TYPE 1) (per bag on cash pick-up basis)
National Capital Region	P125 per 40 kg. bag
Bulacan	P130 per 40 kg. bag
Pampanga	P130 per 40 kg. bag
Olongapo	P130 per 40 kg. bag
Bataan	P130 per 40 kg. bag
Cavite	P130 per 40 kg. bag
Laguna	P130 per 40 kg. bag

Participating Dealers: NCR- Trina Marketing, San Isidro, Makati City; Peninsula Lumber and Hardware, Sampaloc, Manila; Glory Lumber, EDSA, Caloocan City; PSRC Trading, C3, Navotas; MT Construction Supply, Brgy. Mayamot, Antipolo City; MT Construction Supply, San Roque, Marikina City; PowerLife Lumber and Construction, San Andres, Cainta Rizal; PowerLife Lumber and Construction, ML Quezon Ext., Antipolo City; Fortune Star Trading, Upper Lukban, Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Antipolo City; CityBest Marketing, Sumulong Highway, Brgy. Mayamot, Antipolo City; BF Casim Concrete Products, Palanan, Makati City; Marc Alain, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Paranaque City; **Bulacan-** F.R. de Leon Enterprises, McArthur Highway, Bocaue; Ejible Enterprises, Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria; Baliuag MCRM, Sabang, Baliuag; **Pampanga-** BBD Concrete Products and Hardware, Poblacion, Arayat; Harvest Gold Concrete Products, St. Jude Village, San Fernando; NCR Construction Supply, Angeles City; **Bataan-** Sandigan, Orion; Bataan Commercial Ent., Orion; JT Miranda Hardware, Balanga; Unlas Trading, Samal; **Cavite-** Kelly Hardware, Aguinaldo Highway, Bacoor, Cavite; EVY Hardware, Brgy. Sampaloc, Pala-pala, Dasmarinas, Cavite; **Laguna-** Binan San Vicente Construction, Binan, Laguna

Para sa mga katanungan at paglilinaw ukol sa kalidad at presyo ng aming semento, tumawag sa mga numerong ito:

Trunkline: 819 5506 hanggang 15
Marketing Inquiry: 849 7382

REPUBLIC CEMENT GROUP OF COMPANIES

DRAGON
REPUBLIC
FORTUNE

PLDT management,labor ink CBA

RANK-AND-FILE employees of Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Co. have signed a three-year collective bargaining agreement with company management that has none of the huge lump sum bonus that made the previous CBA popular.

This is the second straight CBA negotiation that was undisturbed by any strike, according to PLDT. Before 2001, negotiations for a CBA were crippled by demonstrations.

Unlike the previous three-year CBA that gave each employee a P125,000 lump sum bonus in lieu of a salary adjustment in the first year, the labor-management agreement for 2004 to 2006 provided for salary increases yearly as well as other non-monetary compensations.

The management had agreed to a moratorium on contractual hiring. Workers blamed contractual hiring for the loss of jobs in the past.

From 15,640 in 1994, PLDT regular employees are now down to 5,300.

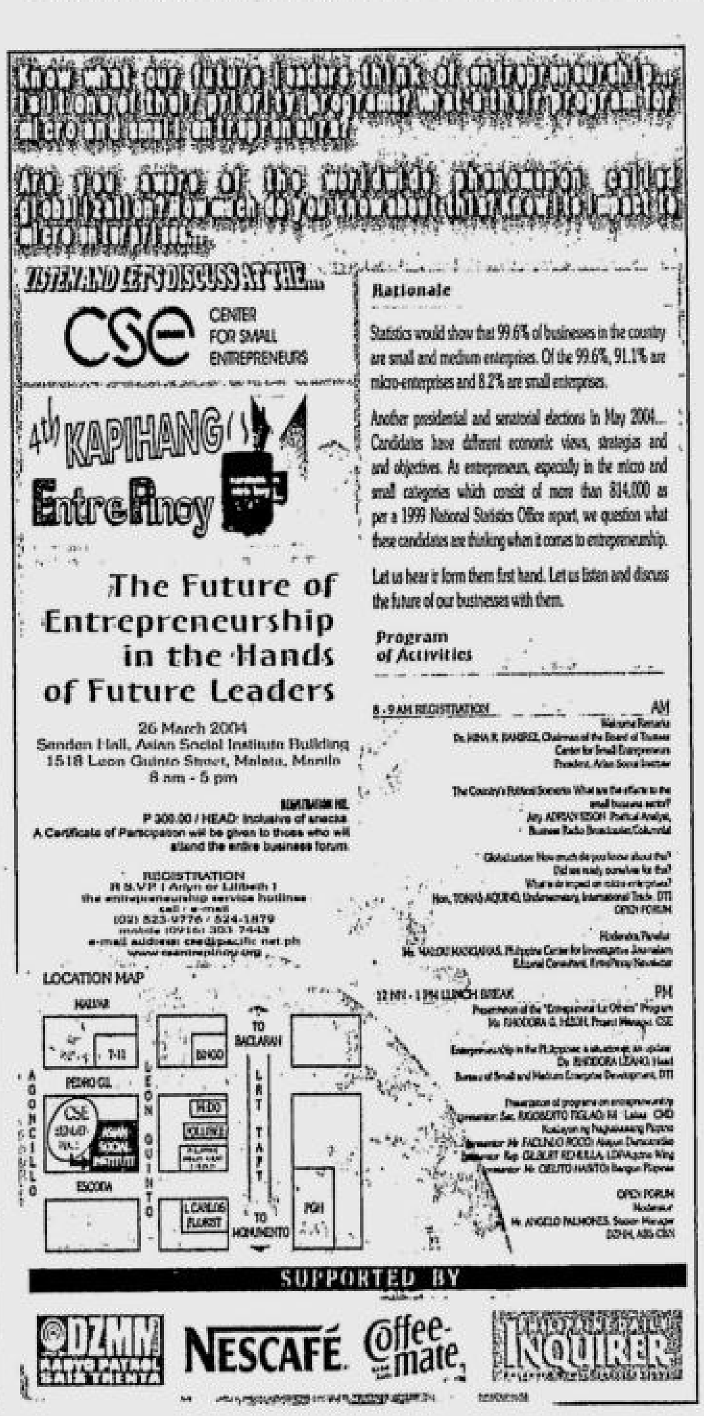
"The ratification of the CBA provides PLDT a stronger foundation from which we can push forth our collective goals and objectives for the coming years," said PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno.

The three-year deal was forged by PLDT management and officers of the Manggagawa ng Komunikasyon sa Pilipinas.

PLDT said about 64 percent or 3,311 of the roughly 5,200 members of the union ratified the CBA.

Under the new CBA, rank-and-file employees will receive a monthly salary increase of P1,800 for 2004; P1,850 for 2005; P2,450 for 2006; a signing bonus equivalent to each member's monthly salary and P10,000 in cash.

Clarissa S. Batino



CSE CENTER FOR SMALL ENTREPRENEURS

4th KAPIHANG EntrePinoy

The Future of Entrepreneurship in the Hands of Future Leaders

26 March 2004
Sandan Hall, Asian Social Institute Building
1518 Leon Guinto Street, Malate, Manila
8 am - 5 pm

P 300.00 / HEAD: Inclusive of snacks
A Certificate of Participation will be given to those who will attend the entire business forum

REGISTRATION
R.S.V.P. | Arlyn or Lilibeth |
the entrepreneurship service hotlines
call / e-mail
(02) 523-9776 / 524-1879
mobile (0916) 303 7443
e-mail address: cse@pacific.net.ph

Rationale

Statistics would show that 99.6% of businesses in the country are small and medium enterprises. Of the 99.6%, 91.1% are micro-enterprises and 8.2% are small enterprises.

Another presidential and senatorial elections in May 2004... Candidates have different economic views, strategies and and objectives. As entrepreneurs, especially in the micro and small categories which consist of more than 814,000 as per a 1999 National Statistics Office report, we question what these candidates are thinking when it comes to entrepreneurship.

Let us hear it form them first hand. Let us listen and discuss the future of our businesses with them.

Program of Activities

8 - 9 AM REGISTRATION
12 NN - 1 PM LUNCH BREAK
OPEN FORUM

SUPPORTED BY
DZMM
NESCAFÉ
Coffee-mate
INQUIRER

In Benguet, more farmers are turning to marijuana

By Elizabeth Sanchez

BENGUET vegetable farmers and the local government are protesting the national government's import policy on vegetables, claiming that the policy have weakened production in their area.

According to Alfredo Alangdeo, chair of the Benguet Vegetable District Corp., more and more farmers in their area are abandoning traditional crops and "turning to marijuana" to make ends meet.

During a dinner meeting with economic journalists in Baguio City, Alangdeo said the increasing importation of carrots, for instance, would affect vegetable production of almost 80,000 farmers, or 46,000 households, in Benguet alone.

Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas also questioned government's collection of tariff on vegetable imports. He said that the Bureau of Customs is not collecting the 20 percent already mandated under an executive order.

At present, the BoC is collecting 7 percent, Molintas said.

"We already have filed a complaint," he said.

Alangdeo said that the increasing vegetable imports are causing the prices of carrots, for instance, to drop to P2 or P3, from P18 a kilo.

He said that in 2003, legal imports of vegetables rose from 3.4 million to 8.66 million kilos.

Benguet province accounts for almost 80 percent of the country's vegetable production, local officials said.

Vegetable growers earlier demanded an official investigation of agriculture officials accused of allowing the importation of vegetables from China without the necessary pest risk analysis.

This, they said, was tantamount to economic sabotage because the move had exposed local consumers to health risks.

Alangdeo also said the importation of cheap carrots from China jeopardized the local farmers' livelihood, as the vegetable price dropped from P20 to P5 per kilo.

Traders urge BSP to set up Muslim bank

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has received a proposal from a group of businessmen on the establishment of a Muslim bank to address the peculiar financial needs of the Islamic community in the country.

The businessmen said that they are expecting Muslims, even from the international community, to patronize the bank.

According to the businessmen, some of the Muslims have expressed difficulty in locating a place to safe-keep their money after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. There are banks that have increased scrutiny of the Muslims' bank deposits to ensure no terrorist money enter their system, they said.

The businessmen, who own a large restaurant chain in the country, said the proposed Muslim bank would be different from the struggling Amanah Savings Bank. They hoped to rectify the flaws of Amanah by forming a management team composed mostly of Muslims.

The Amanah, which was established by the Marcos regime to cater to Muslim depositors, is now experiencing financial difficulties allegedly because of poor management on the part of officials not familiar with the Muslim tradition.

"How do you expect to successfully run a Muslim bank with Christian people?" said one of the group. "The bank we are proposing will have Muslims as officials, and will strictly follow Muslim rules."

Islamic teachings prohibit the concept of fixed earnings or assured interest. This means Muslims are not allowed to collect interest from a deposited money the way most bank depositors do. What Muslims are allowed to do is to place their money in investment outlets that do not guarantee a fixed amount of yield.

The Muslims' concept of banking is, "merely putting their money in it without expecting any interest," the source said. "The bank will pool their money and place them in any investment activities. The Muslim depositors will either be given a share of the profit or will partake of the loss."

He said his company is set to formally discuss with the Monetary Board its plan of venturing into the banking business early next month. If approved, the Muslim bank will start operations in January next year.

The source refused to reveal anything about his company prior to a decision by the central bank.

The group's plan to establish a Muslim bank followed its recent acquisition of a losing thrift bank, which it plans to rehabilitate into a bank that will serve the Muslim market. The source said his company assumed P700 million worth of the thrift bank's debt, and will finance its capital deficiency worth P1.4 billion.

The source said his group would fund part of the bank's capitalization requirement through a $20-million investment committed by G-Tel, a telecommunications firm based in the United States.

2 more oil firms jack up fuel rates

Shell, SeaOil hike gas price by 60¢, kerosene by 40¢ per liter

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL REFINER Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and new player SeaOil Philippines Inc. yesterday jacked up the prices of gasoline by 60 centavos per liter, and kerosene by 40 centavos per liter.

Roberto Kanapi, Shell general manager for external affairs, said in a telephone interview that the high costs of both crude and finished petroleum products in the world market prompted the oil firm to follow the six other players that earlier had increased their prices along the same levels.

"(The oil trade) is market-driven," Kanapi said. "The (Shell) marketing group decided that it was appropriate to hike prices today. It's still because of the high cost of crude and finished products in the world market."

The benchmark Dubai crude, which refiners like Shell base their prices on, averaged $30.82 per barrel during the March 1-22 period, inching closer to the 13-month high of $31.17 registered last March 12.

This price is still on the high side when compared to the February average of $28.61 per barrel.

However, unleaded gasoline—based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) pricing benchmark for finished products—remained at the $44-$45 per barrel level, with a month-to-date average of $44.12.

In January, the MOPS price for unleaded gasoline stood at $40.27 per barrel.

Apart from the high cost of oil products in the world market, SeaOil said in a statement that the weakening of the peso against the dollar also contributed to the independent oil firm's decision to hike its gasoline and kerosene prices yesterday.

The peso plunged to an all-time low of P56.45 to the dollar last Tuesday, as local companies went on a greenback buying spree.

Most companies use the dollar to pay import bills and repay foreign loans.

Concerns over the dwindling flow of foreign exchange to the country prompted Monday's dollar-buying.

The peso-dollar exchange rate averaged P56.27 during the March 1-22 period.

Kanapi said prices of oil products in the world market remained volatile, particularly in light of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (Opec) impending cut in the production of oil by 2.5 million barrels per day.

But recent reports indicated that the Opec might consider softening its stance due to the reported escalation of prices of petroleum products in the world market.

"Prices are still on the high side, but Opec appears to be talking about softening up," Kanapi said. "Some of its members seem to be saying that the current high prices may not be sustainable."

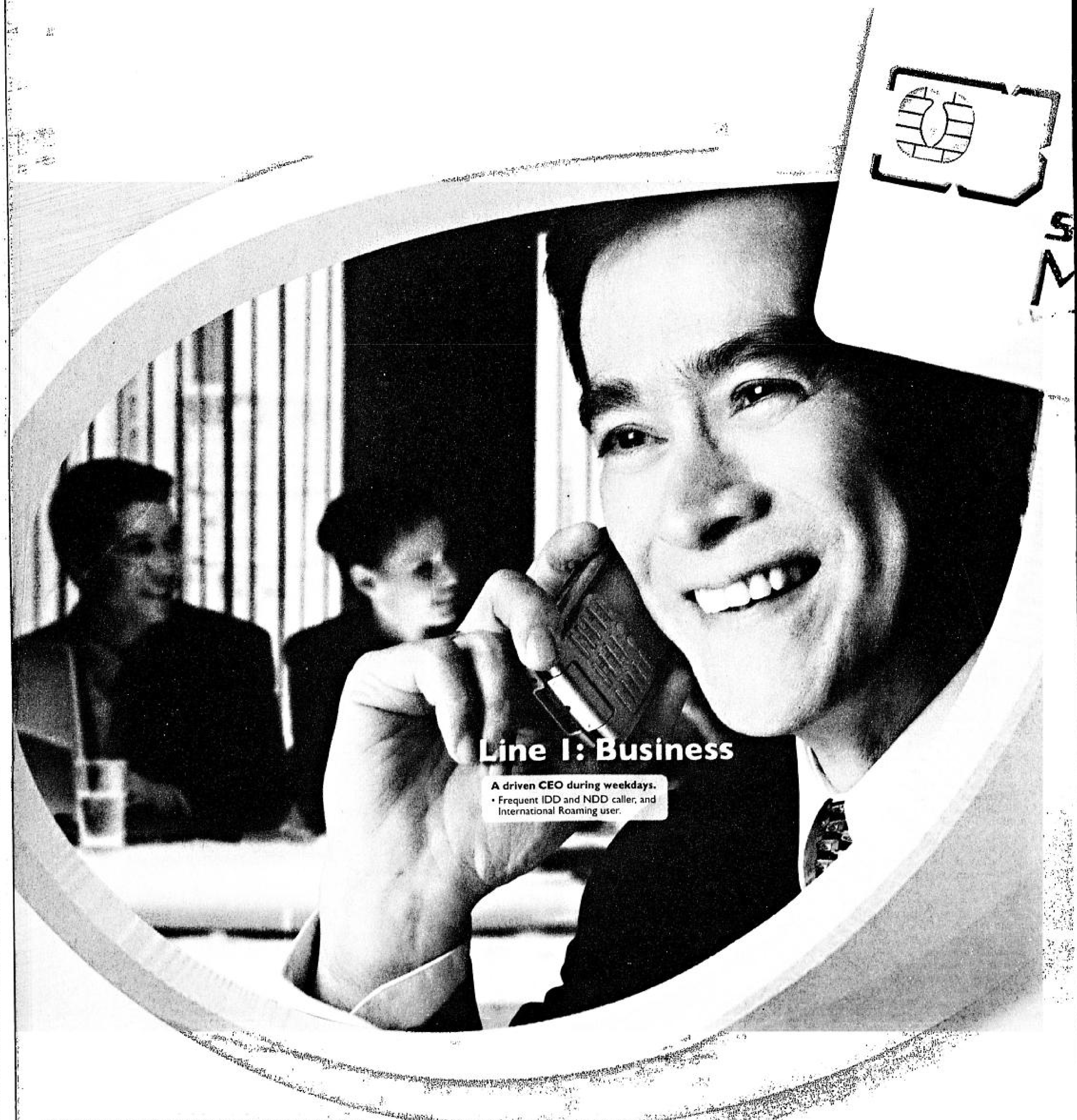
As for the socially sensitive diesel, Kanapi said that there is currently no need to raise its price.

Based on the MOPS, diesel posted a month-to-date average of $38.40 per barrel.

POND'S presents
CANDY'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY!
Candy's turning five at the most-awaited
Candy RAP Awards ★ 2004
Grab your copy of the Candy March Anniversary issue for FREE invites for you and a friend!
★ Saturday, 7:30 pm
★ March 27, 2004
★ Expo Exchange, Greenbelt 1
★ Attire: Sporty Casual Chic
Special performances by:
Jay-R, Starstruck Avengers, Arnee, 17:28 and Stonefree
Special appearances by:
Richard Gutierrez, Cogie Domingo, Frank Garcia, Chynna Ortaleza, Maxene Magalona, Sunshine Dizon, Karel Marquez, Maja Salvador, Toni Gonzaga, the Ateneo Blue Eagles and so much more!!!
PLUS, Five Candy girls can win P5,000! Just bring your complete Candy collection, from 1999 to the present, to the party!

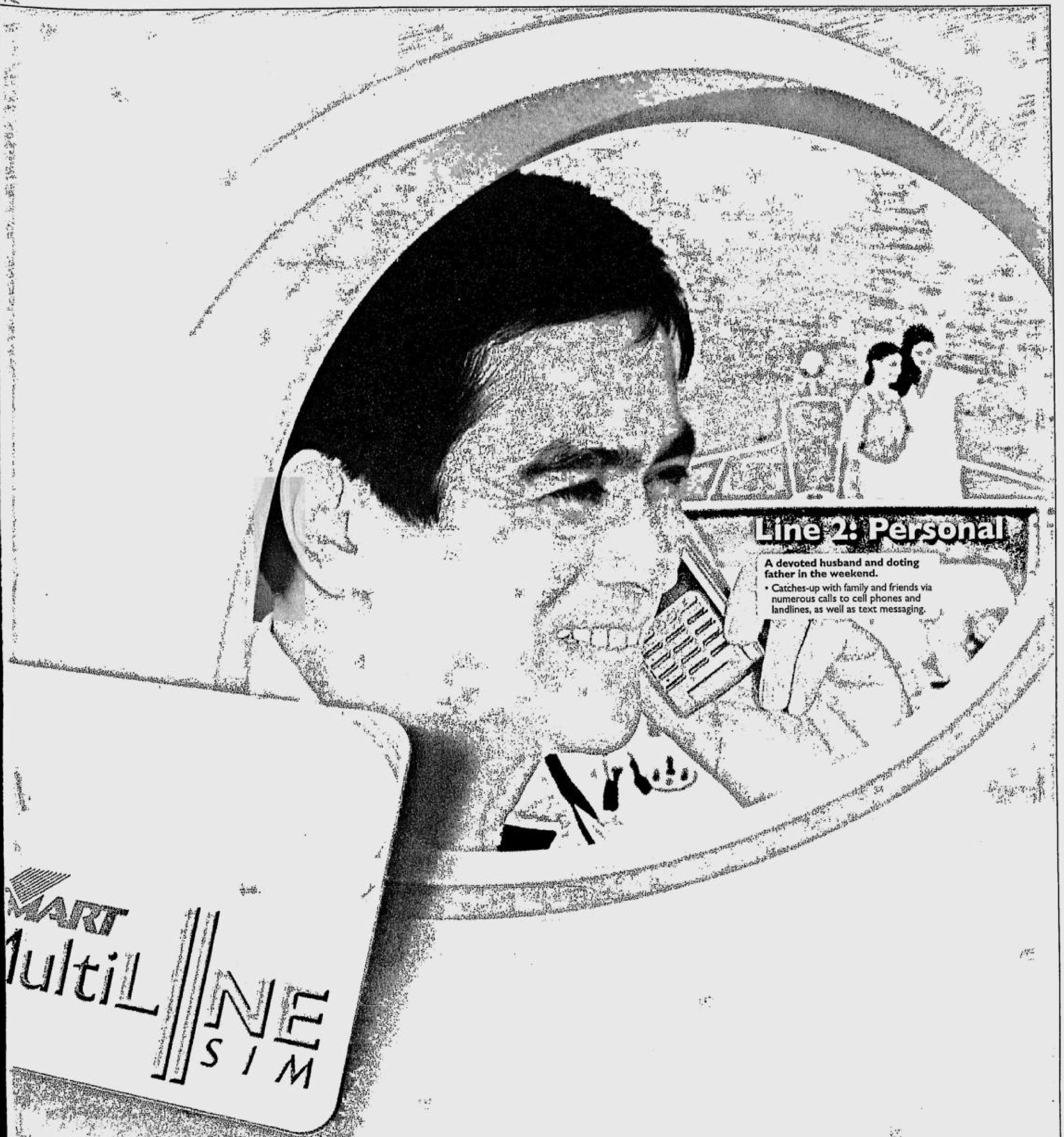
THE SMART MULTI-LINE SIM.

SIM technology reinvented.
Convenience and flexibility redefined.


Line 1: Business
A driven CEO during weekdays.
• Frequent IDD and NDD caller, and International Roaming user.

Available soon to SMART Gold and Addict Mobile subscribers.

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, send a text message to 888 (P0.50 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.



Line 2: Personal

A devoted husband and doting father in the weekend.

- Catches-up with family and friends via numerous calls to cell phones and landlines, as well as text messaging.

Experience greater convenience and flexibility with a SIM that gives you multiple cellular phone lines in one handset – the first of its kind.

SMART
MultiLINE
SIM

- Two or more active cellular phone lines. So you can assign lines exclusively for business calls, and other lines solely for personal calls.
- All lines are active so you can conveniently receive calls and messages from any of your lines.
- Have separate billing statements for each line for better organization and account management.
- Switch between lines through a user-friendly menu.
- With SMART Infinity as your primary line, you can again have SMART Infinity or any of SMART's other post-paid brands as a secondary line.

Primary Line	Secondary Line
SMART Infinity	SMART Infinity
SMART Infinity	SMART Gold
SMART Infinity	Addict Mobile

Enjoy all these with the SMART Multi-Line SIM.
Truly designed for those who believe in a balanced life.

Enjoy life's best. SMART infinity

B10

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY MARCH 24, 2004

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071 Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

ARCHITECTS

ARCHITECTS

Plan / Const / Renov 4146646

LEGAL

USA & CANADA VISA www.travellerslink.com. 4217258

MASSAGE

(02)2581378 NICE IMAGE

02-3233269 Summer Boys

ASK KIM MALE MASSEURS 8537898 (0921)2520919

ERICK-09193663222

Mr BODY PHYSIQUE MASSAGE
11A Kamias QC 4350978

H'SOME ATHLETES 6337361

SUNFLOWER
HOME & HOTEL
Services Offered :
SHIATSU • SWEDISH • THAI
OPEN 24hrs A Day
KATYA 0917-8514413
Karen 0920-4173577•637-2071
KRISTINE 0918-2393924

THAI Msge Llc 0921-2020428

REFLEXOLOGY

Edgar Balasoto 09204076717

Edward 7289285 09194828467

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

Wizard Massage 4213197/4227303

TUTORIAL LESSONS

Foreign Languages 8105680

LANGUAGES P1,950/8944311

LIGHT 5301315 / 5268216

SPANISH LANGUAGE COURSE 5271590

MISCELLANEOUS

Automatic
Transmission &
Right to Left Hand
Convertion
Specialist
Across Marketing
40 Sumulong Hway Antipolo City
682-2858; 682-2866

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

DIRECT MAIDS YAYA BOY 7284093

GOOD MAIDS YAYA INT COOK BOY DRIVER 7572089/7284093

A'A MAIDS W/ NBI 4386920

Best Maid Yaya Boy 4214652

Direct Maid Yaya 9299125

Employment Agency 9287096

GOOD CARING MAIDS
535-93-17 • 0927-480-6767

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

Maids w/orient & BI-8227269

NEED MAIDS 783-4613

QUALITY MAIDS 421-3828

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LBahay7433225

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

P1000/TRIP 742-14-57

MISCELLANEOUS

TLC HOMECARE Psyche & Drug Rehab 0920-5050555

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

VARIOUS AREAS

★Fort Boni ★
Prime Comml 1600M²-5HAS NEW
CONDOS by AYALALAND
★ Manila Bay ★
D'Macapagal Blvd 1T-2T-3T
9120943 / 09178990943

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2tb/grge P3.280M 8903461 loc 34

MANILA

L318m² Evangelista Quiapo v-lot b-offer DBO 929-8376

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.7M 9487112

PARANAQUE

MARCELO GREEN
Hse & Lot Rush Priced 2 Sell LA350m² corner 2sty 5BR 4TB DBO 6471240 0917-5312376

QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS 300; 313; 330m² 2sty 4-5BR P14-25M brand new T-6337601-03

BLUE RIDGE, Q.C.
400m² Bung.3BR/2TB Cute P10M
200m² 2-Sty+Attic 3BR/2TB P7M
6471240 4395075 09175312376

Filinvest I 4351594

NR AYALA HTS LA448 5BR US Style P13M neg 9288846

P381,000/unit condo 2Kms fr. SM Fairview 30 - 60M² Pag-ibig 8179650 / 9750 / 0919-2302120

BULACAN

Nr Muzon 1,700/mo 9390299

CAVITE

Casimiro
Baytown
OPEN HOUSE
March 28, 2004
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Monthly Amortization
As Low As P 7,763 63

COASTAL
WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Monthly Amortization
As Low As P 8,709.75

WESTVILLE
HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Monthly Amortization
As Low As P 6,624 22

FORTE REALTY
893-4207 810-7183
873-5388 873-8318
For Brokers & Agents
Please Call
810-7183 893-4207

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

READY FOR OCCUPANCY
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
FOR SALE OR LEASE:
1, 2 & 3 Bedroom
IN-HOUSE FINANCING
UP TO 5 YEARS TO PAY
AT 0 % INTEREST
AND BANK FINANCING
UP TO 10 YEARS
AT LOW INTEREST
#15 Escriva Drive, Ortigas, Pasig City
Tel: 910-0372
687-2363 / 631-3929
ASTORIA PLAZA

CAVITE

RSG GUEVENTHOMES
Bacoor, Cavite

RFO

2BR T/HOUSE
own carport
ATTIC provision
near MALL

call Mandaluyong Sales Ofc
(02)531-0935 * (02)531-1384
(0920)910-0000
Gilmore QC Sales Ofc
(02)721-5507 * (02)721-5508
0917-8198214
1-800-10RSGHOMES
www.guevent.com/homes

30% DP
in easy installment,
as low as
*P6,606.52/mo.
*based on 20 years Pag IBIG Loan

PHIL. Ofc: G/F New Guevent Bldg. 52 Libertad St. Mandaluyong City
HONGKONG Ofc: Shop 248 Worldwide Plaza Des Voeux Rd. Central HK (00852) 2523-3306
SPAIN Ofc: C/Rosa de Silva No 4 Bajo Dcha. Valdeacederas 28020 Madrid(0034)659 663 083
Other units available Baguio Cainta

BROKERS/AGENTS WELCOME!!!

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

*BEST BUY PACIFIC PLZ Fort Ritz Cash/1 yr Rush 7766802

MANILA

ESPANA TOWER
nr UST 0917-8102903

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P4.490M 8903461 loc 34

PASIG

ALEXANDRA 3BR 250m² IMPVD Unit P9M 6337601-03

ORTIGAS 1BR CALL 520-0075

SAN JUAN

GH SJ 3BR Condo 8-9M 4121825

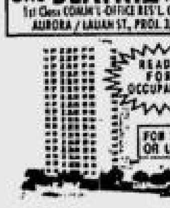
QUEZON CITY

900T CUBAO CONDO 9120679

CUBAO 1.5M No Int. 9132224

Rosemont QC 2BR2TB 2Carg Eaglestar Ktpunan 1.2-2.8M 9120943 / 09178990943

One BEATRIZ Tower
1st Class COMM'L-OFFICE RES'L CONDO.
AURORA / LAUAN ST., PROJ. 3, Q.C.



Nr. ATENEO * UP * MIRIAM *
KOSTKA * PSBA * NCBA
1ST CLASS AMENITIES
R-Top S. Pool, Gym, Sauna, Etc.
W/X'LENT VIEW 360°
MOVE-IN@10% DP
TO SEE... IS TO BELIEVE
OPEN until 8 p.m. daily
ROOMS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR RENT
(DAILY/WEEKLY/MONTHLY) CALL
MASTER C RE-DE, INC.
TEL# 913-5223
922-4464/921-4883

LOT

★SUBIC 48has@200/m²
Direct Buyer Only 0920-9112910

MUNTINLUPA

Alabang Lot Call 520-0075

LOT

QUEZON CITY

AYALA
HILLSIDE
With in Capitol Golf 450-700
HEIGHTS
400 460 .. 500 600 800 1100
RP DUTERTE
9120943 / 09178990943

★AYALA HILLS★
ALSO AYALA HEIGHTS
MRS. GASTON 931-2936/48
AYALA LAND BROKER

★LA VISTA ★
1200@12t 1200-2T00@14T-up Also houses: 18M 22M 25M 28M
★ Loyola Grand ★
Villas 540 1000 2000 P-I
RP DUTERTE
9120943 / 09178990943

PROVINCIAL

★TAGAYTAY LOTS ★
240m²-up 3,520/m² TERMS! No Interest, nr Taal Vista 6609372

OTHER PROVINCIAL

BACOLOD CITY PROPERTY 996SQM COR LOT BESIDE THE HIGHWAY 50 METERS FRM SAN MIGUEL BREWERY COMPLEXN 30 METERS FRM STA FE RESORT HIGH VOLUME OF H20 NEAR PNP PROVINCIAL COMML & LOPUES EAST MALL CEL # 0917-3008143 - JOE GOLEZ; 0917-3713251 GEMMA

LAGUNA

CABUYAO
MULTI-LAND III lots 100 sqm @P3000/sqm or hse & lot package call Tess at 8160997 or 09179166285

BUSINESS SPACE

POLYCLINIC SPACE 4 Rent 50m² Sta Ana Mla above Mercury Drug 3T/mo. 0919-3512810

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

MANDALA
Residential Farm Lots nr QC overlooking MM good investment high ROI pre selling price 727-6871 • 0916-2212781

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

PASAY

Ofis Space 32m²
Taft Ave Pasay
Call 834-1061/551-3733

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

Better Living 3BR 2TB Garage Tel 842-8847

QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS/GRNMEADOWS CORINTHIAN/VALLE 4-6BR P60-130T/mo 6337601-03

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

NEW 1BR•2BR COM'L
CLINIC•OFFICE•P6.5Tup
#162 P. Jacinto cor. #39 Biglang Awa
Caloocan 323-0175

MAKATI

1-3 BR PACIFIC PLZ Fort Ayala Ritz others 7766802 8242933

Spacious 2BR 145m² 25T/mo. FF Ponte Salcedo 0918-9257904

MANDALUYONG

CTLPioneer 1BR P9T 929-9835

PASIG

9F Renaissance 3000 Meralco Ave. New 80sqm 1BR 2TB Furn 1 Prkg Slot P25T 0918-9251136 / 8097064

ORTIGAS 2-3BR F-FURNISH P25-65T/mo T6337601-03

SAN JUAN

Ghills FF Stu P11T 929-9835

Nr Unimart GHills 3BRS P22K/mo 671-4421•727-4840

APARTMENT

MANILA

840 P.Noval NR UST Tel 7313035 7361925 9289541

PARANAQUE

7164216 8201453 PM SUCAT

PASAY

2BRM U/D P7500 T510-0915

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P3.8 Std new 9124428

FOR LEASE

1. OFFICE SPACES
Legaspi/Salcedo Vill., Makati
2. STORE SPACES/ WAREHOUSES
Las Pinas / Cavite / Binondo/ Mandaluyong City
3. CHEMICAL TANKS
Bauan, Batangas
4. 3BR CONDO
Bay Gardens
ALL RENTAL - NEGOTIABLE
Call Tel. No. 892-2681 to 96
ARIEL / DING / REXIE

Orient Sq 158m² 4121825 Talpan Plc 161m² 09177914366

ROOM & BOARD

BIG F BONI 0920-9258614

BUSINESS RENTAL

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st Class bldg 65/129/148/185m² 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

LOT FOR LEASE

LOT for lease 8942836 / 0920-9216673 Mars

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

OFFICE SPACES FOR LEASE (44m ²up to 627m²) 887-6003

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL

Factory/Whse for Sale/ Rent Mrkna Heights Mrkna City 5040sqm 3Bldg with Canteen and Exec 4 Bedroom Flat 10 Car/Truck Garage land mark: Iglesia Ni Cristo Parang Mkna . . . Contact: Dinah S Coo 9482881 / 82

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

•97 Civic Vtec 295T neg M+T 1st own orig paint 8060368•

HYUNDAI

STAREX 1999 P550T 9seater White Diesel 1st Owned 8437633•8437637•8437539 0917-8466227 Carol or Luz

MAZDA

96 Mazda 626 190T 1st own A1 79,336 km. 0918 728-4844

MERCEDES

98 E230 A/T 1.5M OR BOFR 8997400

TOYOTA

'98 GLI A/T 0918-9420180

RUSH '92 Corolla XE A1 cond P140T neg DBO 09178354797

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Estima Lite-Hi Ace Delica etc Finance T-In 8328659

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

★Vans Coaster Bus 422-9296

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8955627

L-300 749-9605

MB100 Van 6285392 6437397

Toyco Rent A Car-Cars Vans Coaster (02)800-6595

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CAR LOAN 6567685

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

BUSN DRS OFW 524-3197

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN3743803

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLANS 780-0106

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

TSCAM RECORDER
DA88 F45K / DA38 P35K
CELL: NOLI 0920-9079510

OTHER EQUIPMENT

JUKI SEWING MACHINES
(4) 352, 3-THREAD P15,000 neg (1) 341, 4-THREAD P7,500 neg ELIZE OVERLAPPING EDGER 4-THREAD P18,000 neg
CALL 711-8080 / 731-5587

PETS

Dacshund Stud Tel. 6470334

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

PHILIPPINE DOG SCHOOL TRAINS SCIENTIFICALLY Sale: German Sheperd Pups
TEL. 721-37-36

WANTED TO BUY

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
DIAMONDS/JEWELRY
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2886
Greenhills • 724-4374

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
PawnTickets, Loans 5%
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRAINING 5271590

LEGAL NOTICE

An Extrajudicial Settlement of the Estate of Jose B. Catindig was executed & acknowledged by his children/heirs on 11 Sept 2003 before Pasig City Notary Public Maria Lourdes C. San Pablo (Doc 46, Page 10, Bk I, S.2003), after execution & acknowledgement by Consuelo A. Catindig, widow of Jose B. Catindig & mother of said heirs, of a Repudiation of Inheritance on 10 Sept 2003 before the aforementioned notary public (Doc 45, Page 10, Bk I, S. 2003). (PDI-3/24, 31, 4/7, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Spouses VICENTE S. FILART and PACITA G. FILART was extrajudicially settled by their heirs per Doc. #102 Page #22, Book # 663 Series of 2001 before Notary Public Jose S. Adolina of Quezon City
(PDI-Mar. 24,31 & Apr.7, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late spouses Vicente S. Filart and Pacita G. Filart was extrajudicially settled by their heirs per Doc. No. 102; Page No. 22; Book No. 663; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Jose S. Padolina of Quezon City.
(PDI-Mar 24, 31&April 7,2004)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
FOR COLOR SEPARATION CO.
MACHINTOSH OPERATOR

- Female
- Single
- Not more than 30 yrs. old
- With or w/out experience; willing to be trained

NOTE: BRING RESUMÉ / NBI CLEARANCE / TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS
ADDRESS: 1174 PASONG TAMO ST., MAKATI CITY
TEL.#890-7279

RESULT OF SANDUGO OCS CL 06-91 RAFFLE DRAW
HPA, Grandstand Fort Bonifacio, Makati City
20 1600H Mar 2004
Grand Price: One Toyota Revo 1.8 DLX (Gas)
winning Ticket # 21401 - Manuelito R. Bueno
Upi Gamu, Isabela

Major Prizes:
1st Prize - Ticket # 08393
Filipina Pontoy
TRADOC PA, Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal
2nd Prize - Ticket # 07933
Rodel Fulgencio
TRADOC PA, Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal
3rd Prize - Ticket # 13592
PO2 Owen Dolores
HQS Maritime Grp. Camp Crame, Q.C.

NOTE: Prizes not claimed within 60 days shall be forfeited in favor of the association.

dti
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax No. (02) 895-8322
Tel. Nos. (02) 897-6682
(02) 890-1322

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of ISLA BEAD COMPANY, INC. with address at Room 204, Tulips Center, A. S. Fortuna Street, Mandaue City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as New ICT Export Service Firm in the Field of ICT-Enabled Services – Customer Contact Center with proposed plant site at Room 204, Tulips Center, A. S. Fortuna Street, Mandaue City has been offically accepted on 22 March 2004 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Let this notice be published at the expense of the applicant.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – March 24, 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late JOSE HERRERA TANCIONGCO has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 16, Page No. 4, Book No. X, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. Jorescel S. Panganiban of Balanga City.
(PDI-March 17,24&31, 2004)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BIG BIG SAVINGS!
Beat the 15%-35% Price Increase of Pension Plan on April 1 /Dave 0917-8349338

Big Income, Own your own business basically 4 FREE! 4 more info 844-7777

EXTRA INCOME
0920-8254033•0919-6912701

GLOBAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
that assists in air management in polluted cities worldwide.
Send email enquiries to :
GlobalAirBiz@yahoo.com.sg

RTW Wholesaler 3738821

SINGAPORE BIZMEN LOOKING FOR CRAZY ENTREPRENEURS WHO WANT TO OWN THEIR FANCY SPORTS CARS AND ABUNDANCE LIFE. WILL TRAIN. CALL 09275680230

DIRECT SALE

SIDELINE: JEWELRY CONSIGN ORIENTATION M-S@8-8 4531478

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

50 PROMO GIRLS FACTORY WORKERS 4155119 /4155409

Oldsitter Companionship Pref underboard midwife 7319946

Rush Good Maid NBI 4307061

SALES PROMO GIRLS
White to Fair Complexion FOR Beauty Products 7248781 7272890

MALE/FEMALE

Direct Hire Ofc Mrktng Staff 18 /45yo coll level/grad w/w/o exp start asap 4390226 Racquel

Account Executive T461-3206

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING PROGRAM W/CERTIFICATE 4043528 5899958 5212773

• IMMEDIATE HIRING •
M/F 21-30 yrs. old
Fluent in English
Accountant
Hotel Manager
Computer Secretary
House Keeping
Apply at Dowooml Corp.
1611 Oxford Suite Hotel
P. Burgos cor. Durban St.
Makati City Look for Mr. Park/
Noel 898-3014

JOB HIRING 09167054572 AINA

WANTED: URGENT!!
FASHION
DESIGNER
Pls. Call: 928-0794
436-3422
Look for Che²

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that the following cash invoices of Smart Communications, Inc. were declared lost:

Booklet Number	Series Number	Address
002	0051 - 0100 QAV	G/F 1487 Universal Record Bldg., Quezon Ave., Sto. Domingo, Quezon City

Any transaction covered by the above numbered invoices will not be honored by the Company.

SMART COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
Smart Tower
6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 811-0211

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph
Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

In Loving Memory of

ANA MARIE "Arie" de LEON SAMSON

who joined her Creator on March 23, 2004 at the age of 45.

Her bereaved parents **Rudy & Buda**; brothers and sisters, **Manny & Camille, Timmy & Patty, Tina & Luis, Rina, Alex**; nephews and nieces mourn her passing and wish her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 27, 2004 after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at Santuario de San Antonio.

SIR KNIGHT PABLO TALAMAYAN TORIO, MD

Of Aparri, Cagayan
UST Medicine Class '38
Past President La Union Medical Society 1966
Past Grand Knight, K of C, Council 4109, Agoo, La Union

Born on August 14, 1909, peacefully joined his Creator on March 20, 2004 at the age of 94 after receiving the last sacrament.

He is survived by his brother: **Nestor** and sister: **Laura**; children **Rene** and wife **Bella**; **Lito** and wife **Thelma**; **Rosalinda**; **Cherry** and husband **Lindo**; grandchildren: **Kristine** and **Ryan**, **Jocelyn**, **Richie**; **Michael** and **Chiklet**; **Matet**, **Jonathan**, **Anabelle**; **Junus**; great grandchildren: **Miguel Paulo** and **Connor Robert**.

The family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, Agoo, La Union.

Thank You.

Interment will be on Monday, March 29, 2004, 10 AM at Agoo Catholic Cemetery. Contact no. (072) 5210732.

Our Beloved

Luzviminda Bautista y Pallera

Peacefully joined the Lord on March 18, 2004 at the age of 70.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Crematory, Chapel K, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on March 26, 2004.

For your loving children:
Ramat, Ronie, Jhie, Leah, Peachy

ERRATUM

LYDIA FERNANDEZ MAMENTA

of Binalonan, Tayug Pangasinan, and Quezon City

Peacefully died on March 21, 2004 at the age of 74.

Interment has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 27, 2004 at Tayug Cemetery, Pangasinan after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick Church.

"Let the words of my mouth meet Your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before You, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

— Psalm 21:15

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City,
Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031, 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451, 522-2128, (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City
Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. Tels. 231-0721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City.
Tels. (082) 227-1201, 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City;
Tels. 740-2683, 781-3705, 781-3688, 413-9400, 715-5504
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City •
Tels. (047) 222-3605, (047) 811-1088, (047) 222-4512, (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City, Tel. 894-5832 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064
DYNASTY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
965 Del Monte Ave., Frisco, Quezon City.
Tels. 416-3231, 4162373
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City;
Tels. 942-6044, 475-1177
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963, 2813034, 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2059, (045) 322-5247
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City;
Tels. 641-7909, 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila;
Tels. 642-3010, 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas;
Tels. 873-0507, 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City;
Tels. 890-3556, 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266, (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila;
Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42, (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711, 651-0737
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City;
Tels. 825-1206, 825-1291, Telefax 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur,
Tel. 722-2730, Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City;
Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795; 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 740-3806 to 11; 712-3001, 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque;
Tels. 820-1502, 825-9947, 825-8835
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City;
Tel. (074) 443-3337, (074) 442-3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3386, (046) 471-4417, (046) 571-1078
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City;
Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3108 to 08, 941-3678, Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal,
Tels. 645-1855, 682-0200, 682-0210
MARCELO FUNERAL HOMES
Tels. 283-1613, 273-8922
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960, 522-8783, (0917) 520-5001
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.
Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867, 714-0868
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Cangma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782, 697-0026, 650-7426, Fax 697-2764
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City
Tels. 646-1725, 646-1730
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila,
Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
PRIME MEMORIAL CHAPELS
200 Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City;
Tels. 427-8412, 4278403
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City. Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
436 Cementina St., Pasay City, Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City,
Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30, Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.
Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City,
Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
18-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila. Tels. 749-3870, 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City.
Tels. 372-5084, 410-0286/87
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila,
Tels. 493-4458, 493-4540
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1801, 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila. Tel. 302-5447
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels. (049) 562-1688, 800-2914, Cel. No. (0917) 5016963

On the First Death Anniversary of the late

MINERVA COLINA NAZARENO

December 4, 1951- March 24, 2003

Her husband, Joselin, children, Jomini, Jonner and Jollie, Mother, Carmen, Sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy mass will be offered at the following churches:
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine...12 noon
St. Michaels Church, Fort Bonifacio...5:30pm
St. Francis de Assisi Church, Shaw Blvd...6pm
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park...6pm
Heritage Park, Makati...5:30pm

HORACIO C. FRANCISCO

Peacefully joined our Creator on March 22, 2004

His loving wife, **ALEJANDRIA** (†); only child **ARNEL** & wife **EDITH**; grandchildren **KEVIN, KLARENCE** and **VINCE** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence at 573 Cleofer St., Santa Quiteria, Caloocan City.

Interment will be on **Thursday, March 25, 2004** at **Eternal Gardens Memorial Park**, Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City.

LETICIA DIZON FERNANDO

Peacefully joined our Lord, her parents ***ARSENIO & SALUD****, her husband* ***HECTOR*** *and her sister* ***MARIA SALUD*** *on March 20, 2004 at the age of 78.*

She is survived by her children **JOY & JOJO MANGAHAS, MARIENNE & KJELL OKTER, BOBBY** and **JUN & MONETTE**; grandchildren **PAOLO, JV** and **ANNA, KAREN & JOVEE** and **EIA**; stepmother **PILAR**; and siblings **MARISSA & JUN, TITA & NOEL, CANDY & JANELLE** and **NONOY & ICANG**. Her bereaved family requests the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Cremation will be on Friday, March 26 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Center for Migrant Youth will be appreciated.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

GIA

Thailand Campus

Learn about Gems & Jewelry

From the world's foremost authority in gemology
70 year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide

GIA Graduate Gemologist Diploma
the most recognized gemological credential

G.G. Program starts May 31, 2004

GIA Thailand Since 1993

Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77 Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor NIA Road
Quezon City

Invitation To Apply for Eligibility and To Bid

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) invites all interested Consultants to apply for eligibility and short listing and to submit sealed bids for the provision of Architectural and Engineering Design Services, for the following proposed Registry of Deeds Building projects with designated Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), namely:

PROJECT	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) (Tax Inclusive)
Balanga, Bataan	P 200,000.00
Baler, Aurora	160,000.00
Guiguinto, Bulacan	280,000.00
Meycauyan, Bulacan	240,000.00
Borongan, Eastern Samar	160,000.00
Naga City	240,000.00
Tagbilaran City/Bohol Province	240,000.00
Oroquieta City/Misamis Occidental	280,000.00
Tangub City	160,000.00
Tubod, Lanao del Norte	120,000.00
Camiguin	100,000.00
Daet, Camarines Norte	160,000.00

The required Consultancy Service includes, among others, the preparation of schematic design, structural design analysis, construction drawings, technical specifications, cost estimates and other tender documents and the provision of support services during construction. The final design per project shall be completed forty two (42) calendar days from the receipt of the Notice to Proceed (NTP).

The source of fund is covered by Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) C-03-06911 dated 29 December 2003.

Interested consultants shall be required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) for each project. Eligibility Forms can be secured from **March 25 to April 1, 2004** at the BAC-Infrastructure Secretariat at the 5th Floor, LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P300.00 per project.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements is on **April 12, 2004**. After eligibility screening, the BAC shall undertake short listing and draw up a short list of a maximum of seven (7) consultants per project based on the following criteria:

a) Applicable experience considering both tAhe overall experience of the firm and individual experiences of the principal and key staff including the times when employed by other consultants;
b) Qualification of personnel who may be assigned to the job vis-a-vis extent and complexity of the undertaking; and
c) Current workload relative to capacity.

Bid documents shall be available for issuance to short listed consultants from **April 22-29, 2004** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 per project. For purposes of evaluation, the BAC shall adopt a Quality-Cost Based Evaluation Procedure, with the technical and financial proposals given a respective weight of 85% and 15%.

Pre-bid Conference shall be held on **April 30, 2004** at the LRA Conference Room. Sealed bids consisting of both the technical and financial proposals shall be received on **May 12, 2004** at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the LRA Multi-Purpose Hall during which the technical proposal shall also be opened. Financial proposals shall be opened at the same venue on May 26, 2004 at 10:00 o'clock a.m.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality in the bids received, and accept such offer most advantageous to the government.

The bidder shall bear all costs in the preparation of their bids and government shall in no case be responsible or liable for their costs regardless of the outcome of the bidding process.

(Sgd.) EDILBERTO R. FELICIANO
Deputy Administrator
Chairman, BAC-Infrastructure

(PDI – March 10 & 24, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The Department of Transportation and Communications, Philippine Coast Guard – Project Management Office (DOTC/PCG-PMO) through the DOTC – PBAC is inviting General Contractors with License Classification of "General Engineering" and IAC Registration of Small B for "Ports, Harbors & Offshore Engineering" for the re-bidding of the Lighthouse Project located at Cabuli Island, El Nido, Palawan.

The scope of work covers civil works, tower erection, electrical installation and other miscellaneous works. The Approved Budget Cost (ABC) for the said lighthouse is P1,206,991.70 and the contract duration shall not be more than one hundred twenty (120) calendar days.

All interested bidders should present the original copies of the following documents on 23 March or before 05 April 2004 at the PCG-PMO, 2nd Floor, S&L Building, Roxas Blvd. corner R. Salas St., Ermita, Manila, to wit:

a. DTI or SEC Registration
b. Mayor's Permit/Municipal License
c. Contractor's License (Certified True Copy)
d. Taxpayer's Identification Number
e. CIAP Certificate that the Contractor is not "Blacklisted"

The following schedule should be strictly observed:

- Issuance of Eligibility Documents – 23 March – 05 April 2004
- Submission of accomplished Eligibility Statements – 12 April 2004
- Issuance of Bid Documents, Plans & Drawings – 20 April 2004
- Pre-Bid Conference – 21 April 2004
- Submission and Opening of Bids – 03 May 2004
- Funding Source – SARO No. A-03-06866 dated 29 December 2003

The Bid Documents, Plans and Drawings will only be issued to registered and eligible bidders upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (Php500.00) at the Cashier's Office of the DOTC, 5th Floor, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City.

Bidders who have initially responded to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and were declared eligible in the first bidding shall be allowed to submit new bids without necessarily procuring the bid documents earlier obtained.

The DOTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **AGUSTIN R. BENGZON**
Undersecretary and Chairman, DOTC PBAC
for Maritime/Water Sector Projects

(PDI-March 10, 22 & 24, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of Janitorial Services for the Supreme Court.

The approved estimated budget for the contract is Four Million Four Hundred Pesos (P4,400,000.00) chargeable against the Judiciary Development Fund.

Interested bidders for Janitorial Services may obtain the necessary eligibility requirements from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Property Division, Supreme Court, after payment of a non-refundable fee of Eight Hundred Pesos (P800.00). For additional information contact the Secretary, Atty. Ennar Cabanilla at Telefax 4042731 or Norma C. Josue at Telefax 5247425.

I. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The pre-bid conference shall be on **April 16, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.** at the **3rd Floor Session Hall, Old Supreme Court Building.**

II. SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All legal requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on **April 21, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.** at the **3rd Floor, Session Hall, Old Supreme Court Building.**

III. OPENING OF BIDS

Only bids of eligible bidders will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives on **April 28, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.** at the **3rd Floor Old Session Hall Supreme Court Building.**

Interested bidders must not be related to the need of the procuring entity or any member of the Committee on Bids or COB Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bids/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) JOSE P. PEREZ
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI – March 24 & 31, 2004)

WWF

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The KKPFI (WWF-Philippines), a duly registered non-government organization implementing the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park Conservation and Development Project (NSMNPCDP)-Phase II, funded by The Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE) is inviting interested contractors with IAC classification (not lower than Category Small B) on Dam and irrigation construction to pre-qualify and to bid in a public sealed bidding scheduled on April 28 and 29, 2004, for the construction and rehabilitation of the following communal irrigation projects (CIPs):

1. Maligaya CIP, Palana, Isabela
2. Dibulo CIP, Dinapigue, Isabela
3. Culasi CIP, Palanan, Isabela
4. Dimaluade CIP, Dinapigue, Isabela

The proposed work to be undertaken shall include the furnishing of labor, materials and equipment necessary for the construction and rehabilitation of concrete diversion dams and irrigation canals.

Pre-C forms shall be made available at the WWF-Philippines, NSMNPCDP Phase II, Liaison Office, Alvarez-Majan Bldg., Don Canciller Avenue, Cauayan City, Isabela upon submission of the letter of Intent and latest PCAB license not later than April 13, 2004.

Deadline for the submission of fully accomplished pre-qualification statement shall be not later than 5:00 p.m. on April 16, 2004.

1. Issuance of Bid/ Tender Documents (upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00)	April 19-20, 2004
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	April 23, 2004 (WWF-Philippines Liaison Office)
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	April 28, 2004 (12:00 p.m.)
4. Opening of Bids	April 28, 2004 (1:00 p.m.) April 29, 2004 (8:00 a.m.)

The submission and opening of bids shall be held at the WWF-Philippines, NSMNPCDP Phase II, Liaison Office, Alvarez-Majan Bldg., Don Canciller Avenue, Cauayan City, Isabela.

The KKPFI (WWF-Philippines) reserves the right to reject any bids or all kinds or any part thereof, waive any defect or informality therein or to accept the offer most advantageous to WWF-Philippines.

JOSE MA. LORENZO TAN
President, WWF-Philippines

(PDI--March 24 & 29, 2004)

Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang

MEMORANDUM

Subject : **Naming the National Telecommunications Commission NTC as the Designating Authority in the Implementation of Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRAs)**

To foster the development and improvement of telecommunications products and services to meet national and global requirements of the sector, and in fulfillment with Philippines commitment under mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs) to which the country is a signatory, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is hereby named as DESIGNATING AUTHORITY in the implementation of these arrangements.

As Designating Authority, the NTC shall comply with the International Standardization Organization (ISO) IEC Guidelines, i.e, to be able to designate, monitor and verify accreditation and conformity assessment bodies. For this purpose, it shall work in close coordination with the Bureau of Product Standards and this Office, in establishing these criteria or requirements.

This Memorandum may be revised or amended as this Office deems appropriate, in the interest of public service or as may be required, to meet commitments to which the Philippines is a signatory.

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation and three (3) certified true copies furnished the U.P. Law Center.

Manila, Philippines, March 23, 2004.

(Sgd.) VIRGILIO L. PEÑA
Chairman
Commission on Information and Communications Technology

(PDI – March 24, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. MMD-TRANSCO 2004-017

PD Ref. No.: PB040315-EL0035

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO – BAC) – HEAD OFFICE,** invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship; or
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract; Provided, however, That Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
   e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. Procurement of
   TRANSPORTATION SERVICES of VARIOUS TYPES of MOTOR VEHICLES for INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (i.e., Limousine, Vans, Tourist Bus, Coaster) on the 1st HALF OF JUNE, 2004.
3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents that will be issued.
   The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is ***P3.9 Million*** to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation, Special Fund of TransCo.
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting ***March 17, 2004 to April 18, 2004*** at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on ***April 5, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.*** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before ***10:00 A.M. of April 19, 2004*** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Corporation.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO G. LABAYANI
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – March 17 & 24, 2004)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

A. The University of the Philippines Diliman hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility to bid for:

Lease of the V.I.P. Lounge of Vinzon's Hall with an approximate area of 31.96 sq.m. which is suitable for a beauty salon and/or dress shop.

B. The following eligibility requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO) at Instructional Materials Corp. Building (National Book Development Board), A. Regidor Street fronting the PAG-ASA Astronomical Observatory, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders:

1. SEC/DTI/Cooperative Development Registration Papers
2. 2003 Business License/Permit
3. Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2002 & 2003) with accompanying Audited Financial Statements marked "received" by the BIR
4. Company Profile
5. List of clients (pass and present) with corresponding contract costs, references and supporting documents
6. List of company equipment and other assets
7. Statement of the company that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, offices or corporations

DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BIDDING DOCUMENTS

The above mentioned requirements must be completely submitted in two (2) separate folders with Table of Contents and properly tabbed. Otherwise, the same will not be accepted by the SPMO.

NOTE: "ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE INVITATION TO BID DOCUMENTS AND BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

C. Deadline for submission: **April 16, 2004**

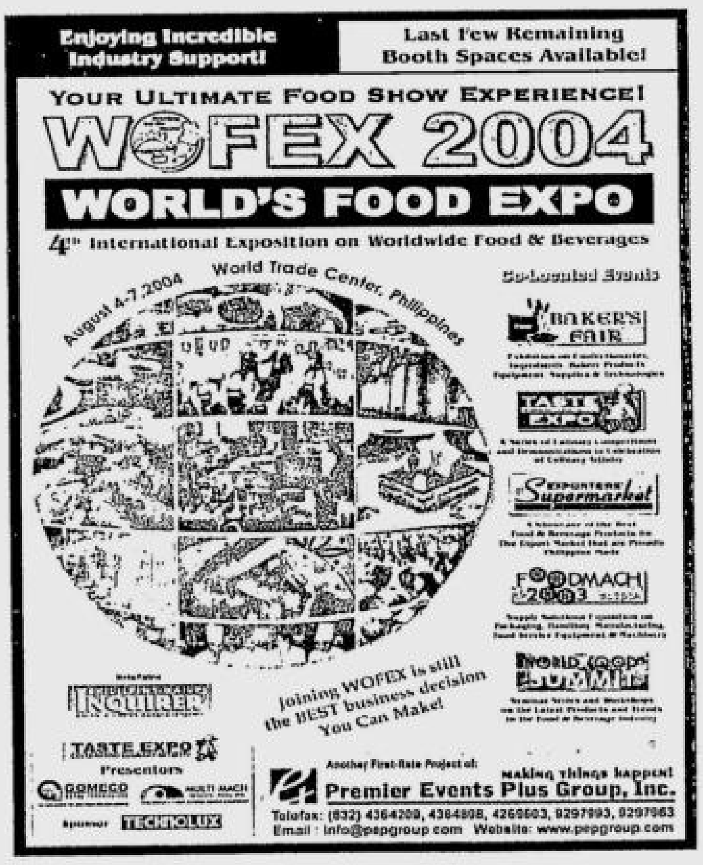
D. Pre-bidding and bidding schedules shall be announced to all eligible bidders.

E. The University of the Philippines reserves the right to review the qualifications of all selected bidders, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the University.

F. For further particulars, please inquire from Mr. Pedro E. Fajardo, Chief, SPMO, anytime during office hours at the above mentioned address or call Tel. No. 920-53-74 (direct line) and 920-53-01 local 4331, 4911 and 4913, or contact the Business Concessions Office (BCO) at Tel. No. 925-69-96 and 920-53-01 local 7926.

(Sgd.) **EMERLINDA R. ROMAN**
Chancellor

(PDI--March 24 & 31, 2004)


Enjoying Incredible Industry Support!
Last Few Remaining Booth Spaces Available!
YOUR ULTIMATE FOOD SHOW EXPERIENCE!
WOFEX 2004
WORLD'S FOOD EXPO
4th International Exposition on Worldwide Food & Beverages
August 4-7 2004
World Trade Center, Philippines
BAKERS FAIR
TASTE EXPO
Supermarket
FOODMACH 2003
INQUIRER
Joining WOFEX is still the BEST business decision You Can Make!
TASTE EXPO
Presentors
TECHNOLUX
Another First-Rate Project of:
making things happen!
Premier Events Plus Group, Inc.
Telefax: (632) 4364209, 4364808, 4269603, 9297993, 9297983
Email : info@pepgroup.com Website: www.pepgroup.com

WOFEX
WORLD'S FOOD EXPO

PDI SPONSORS World's Food Expo 2004 (Wofex) to be held this August 4 to 7, 2004 at the World Trade Center, Manila Philippines. With more than 400 foreign and local exhibitors and over 27,000 trade visitors, Wofex is tagged at the ultimate food show in the country today. In photo signing the memorandum of agreement are (from left) Donald Patrick Lim (PDI Classified Advertising Division Head & Marketing Services Manager), Joel Pascual (President, Premier Events Plus Group Inc.), Randy Manaloto (VP-Finance, Premier Events Plus Group Inc.). Interested participants may call PEPGroup at 436-4209, 436-4898, 929-7993 or 63, 426-9603 or email at info@PEPGroup.com or check website at www.PEPGroup.com.

Pranic healers promote health and harmony

By Candy G. Villanueva

ALL ABOUT WORK

WHAT is it that you fear? Almost everyone has at least one thing they are afraid of. One lady had a great fear of flying. She heard about the healing wonders of the curing methodology called Pranic healing and decided to try it out. Several days after her one-day healing session, she sent her Pranic healer a postcard from Israel saying how she was enjoying her trip.

Nena is a retired senior faculty member of St. Scholastica's College who sought the help of Pranic healers. Suffering from a slipped disk, she wore a brace to support her back in her regular weekly healing sessions. In three months, she was able to take off the brace and bend effortlessly.

Not quack doctors

Pranic healers are not miracle workers, neither are they quack doctors.

Pranic healers work on the body's vital energy (*prana*) to treat various illnesses. Pranic healing is a natural healing technique that uses the "no-touch" methodology. "Physical touch is not necessary because we treat the energy body not the physical body," explains Salvador Neri III, a volunteer Pranic healer and student of the Institute for Inner Studies, Inc.

Every Thursday, a large handful of executives, families and basically people from all walks of life visit the Institute for Inner Studies, Inc. along Pasay Road in Makati. People come in high hopes that their ailments, whether physical or psychological, will be remedied by the Pranic healers.

Testimonies

A large number of testimonies have attested to the methodology's affectivity. The practice, however, is considered a complimentary form of modality. "It is not intended to replace traditional medicine, it is meant to compliment," stresses Neri. This methodology uses energies to initiate biochemical changes in the body to accelerate healing. Pranic healing is also practiced for prevention and covers a wide spectrum of illnesses or maladies from physical to emotional and even mental.

The art and science of working with energies has been in existence since the days of old but Pranic healing was developed and modernized by Filipino-Chinese, Choa Kok Sui. A teacher, author, scientist, chemical engineer and philanthropist, he is widely known by Pranic healers as the Grand Master. Pranic healing is presently recognized at over 70 countries around the world.

Innate ability

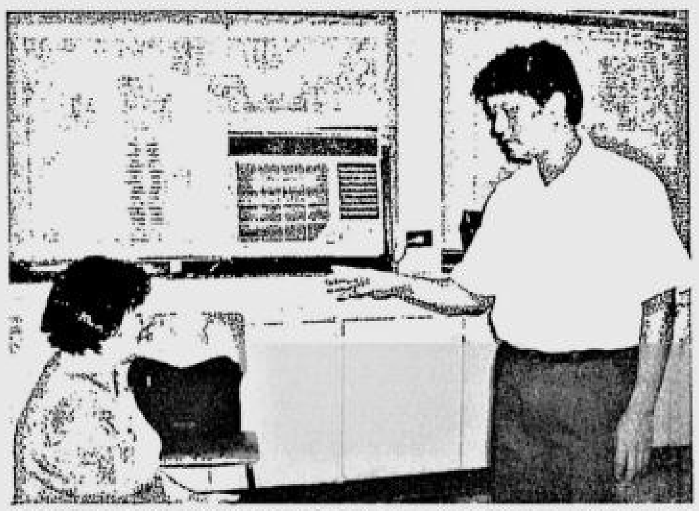
It is believed that the power to heal is an innate ability in all of us. Pranic healers are taught how to cultivate and awaken these powers. Any healthy person with average intelligence who has the ability to focus, has an open-mind and possesses persistence, patience and compassion can be a Pranic healer.

Possessing all these qualities, all one needs is to take a two-day course to learn the basics of the science. Once a candidate has presented several healing cases, the Pranic healer becomes certified. He or she may then choose to take advanced courses for more serious cases. Other courses are also offered for the different forms of Pranic healing. Pranic crystal healing, Psychic self-defense and Pranic psychotherapy are some of the other specialties.

Service

Since almost anybody can learn the modality, people from all walks of life have learned the craft. Most of the Pranic healers in the Institute for Inner Studies have day jobs as doctors, entrepreneurs, teachers, and managers. And because it is non-sectarian and not based on any religion, even priests and nuns have studied the science. "They do Pranic healing as an avenue for serving God and mankind," says Neri who has been practicing the art for more than a decade.

Because they see it as a form of service, Pranic healers rarely charge for sessions. Any amount they earn are usually from donations. And what little they earn, they give away most of it to the Institute to sponsor Pranic healing students.


NERI in one of his Pranic healing sessions CANDY G. VILLANUEVA/CONTRIBUTOR

Nourishment

The fulfillment of the job goes beyond monetary returns. Neri sees it as an "opportunity to serve and help alleviate the pain of the patient." Another Pranic healer, Remy Catacutan adds, "It is the spiritual connection with God before, during and after healing and while meditating." For Lorna Nuñez, the bottom line is, patients go home gaining nourishment for the mind, heart and soul.

Pranic healers see the science of working with energies as an all-encompassing cure. They aim not only to serve mankind by nourishing its body, heart, mind, and soul, Pranic healers also hope to take their work on a greater level by healing Mother Earth. By meditating on one's love for fellow humans and one's heightened spiritual consciousness, these healers believe that they can create oneness with everything and anyone in the world.

A bonding of working mom 'runners'

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

"LUNCH is the province of women." And yesterday, we set out to claim just that: some lost territory, some right to indulge, and some need to speak freely. We had to get out, if only for the brief hour and a half that the office lunch break allows us, to release ourselves from the office cubicle myopia that had descended on us.

A working mom's load can make us feel like blind mice in a maze. We become near-sighted because we are too busy. We are unable to plan ahead, able only to react to hurdles when these stare us right in the face. We wear the double blinders of our work-plus-home to-do list, and we tend to forget that there are other women running beside us ready to be keep pace with us, trot along, or go the distance.

So we set out to regain some perspective yesterday. Over a sumptuous paella lunch with giant Thong crabs (as big as your face, if you have it at Las Paellas), six working moms raised their heads above the maze, reached out to each other, and found vision and voice in each other. All it took was a willingness to climb out of the box, to be both strong and vulnerable for and with each other, and a bit of planning.

Perspective

We decided at the onset that office talk was out of the question. Because we all worked in the same office, we knew how consuming shoptalk could be. Giving in to it would have been like bringing our office cubicles to lunch, we would still be trapped in the maze. Instead, we prepared pop questions: 10 things we wanted to learn about each other.

Storytelling

We carefully crafted the questions so that we didn't end up with just a simple yes or no, or just a bland listing of facts, but so that we would get strategy ideas for coping with a working mom's load. Do you still do household chores, we asked. What have you delegated? Who do you fall back on? Why do you work? Who makes it possible for you to work? How do you make time for your kids? We put our questions in a little tin box and allowed each one to pick, pass or steal a question. Best of all, we listened to each other. When one held a question strip in her hand, she got everybody's full attention. There was no advice giving, no judgment passing. We simply savored each other's stories.

The storytelling gave us a chance to look at why we do things the way we do ("I always thought I would go on working when I got married," one mom shared. "It never occurred to me to stop. I don't think I'm cut to stay at home."). It also gave us a chance to see if there was a better way of doing things ("I stopped tutoring my kids, *kasi* they would have to wait until I get home from work. We would be studying way passed bedtime. *Parang* torture. I just hired a tutor."). Plus, the stories told us we are not alone. When one mom pulled out the clincher question-"do you feel you spend enough time with your kids?" Her eyes quickly welled up with tears. She didn't have to say a word. We all understood.

Bonding

We all came out of the lunch refreshed, armed with new fervor, and with a sense that no matter how lonely it feels in our cubicles, there's always another woman running along with us. We promised to get-together again. Next time, we would bring our *baon*, one dish per person, and we would share it. We'll sequester the office pantry for an hour and have the bonding we so need. I truly believe that whenever two or three working moms are gathered, there you will find wisdom and hope.

And because I truly believe in this power, I am turning this column into a gathering of working moms, too. Next week, we will be sharing this space with working mom (of twin boys and a lovely daughter!) Gina Abuyuan-Llanes. She is editor-in-chief of Working Mom magazine and an inspiring co-advocate of work-life balance. Please help me welcome her by turning to this page next week.

Try organizing a working mom lunch in your own office. Then, tell us about it. Write to me at an_alcantara@abs.pinoycentral.com.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is founding editor of Working Mom magazine published by ABS-CBN Publishing, Inc. For more tips, get a copy of Working Mom with Carmina Villaroel on the cover.)

How Stephen Covey ...

From page B14

STEPHEN Covey with Lirio Ongpin-Mapa, Vice President of Center for Leadership and Change Inc. LIRIO MAPA/CONTRIBUTOR

person who doesn't have the opportunity to keep learning at work?

Covey: Tremendous question. A lot of people with a work ethic don't have a learning ethic. And they just reduplicate their one-year experience every year. Turn down the TV and build into your schedule time for disciplined learning experiences that throw you out of your comfort zone. Read Scientific American if you hate science. If you love science, read a novel because that will drive you crazy. Discipline yourself. Don't just read the psyche-up tapes in your car, get the great books in your car. Force yourself to sharpen the saw at least an hour a day. If you don't schedule it, it won't happen.

(Center for Leadership and Change Inc. is bringing Stephen Covey to Manila on Nov. 19, 2004.)

Human Capital Management program offered

THE ASIAN Institute of Management (AIM), in partnership with global consulting firm Hewitt Associates, is bringing the program "Human Capital Management in Asia: Driving Superior Results through People" on April 19 to 23, 2004.

In the five-day program, top executives, marketing and manufacturing leaders, consultants, and functional leaders in finance, IT, and human resources, will develop a practical agenda for change in human capital management in their respective organizations. The program will allow participants to gain access to the research findings of the AIM and Hewitt Associates and get exposed to global best practices in HR.

The invited speakers and discussion leaders include Nieves Confesor, AIM dean and former chairperson of the ILO Governing Body; Ravi Virmani, head of Hewitt Southeast Asia; Jesus Zulueta Jr., managing director of ZMG Signium Ward Howell; Susan Manalo, country manager of Hewitt; and AIM professors.

Limited seats are available. For inquiries and reservations, please contact EXCELL Marketing at 893-2050, 892-4011 ext. 102, or e-mail excell_admissions@aim.edu.ph.

INQUIRER JOB Market Where You Find The Best.

OPTIMUS INNOVATIONS, INC. DZRH

A project of the
Philippine Daily Inquirer,
Optimus Innovations
and Manila Broadcasting Company.

Nagpapakamatay ba kayo sa paghanap ng trabaho?

Sumali na sa

MyTRABAHO

A Public Service Program to Help Jobseekers and People at Work Find Their Dream Jobs

Tune in to **My Trabaho at DZRH** today at 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at 666 on your AM radio dial for more information on this program. Or check out **My Trabaho at Job Market** this coming Sunday in Sunday People at Work / Job Market

A. Who are qualified to join:

1. Filipino citizen
2. Graduate of a two-year course, a 4-year college course or higher degrees
3. Physically and mentally fit
4. No police or criminal record
5. Residing in Metro Manila or if provincial resident, can reside in Metro Manila at own expense for the duration of the availment of the benefits
6. Willing to accept terms and conditions of acceptance of benefits

B. Mechanics

1. Send through postal mail or e-mail a letter describing yourself, your strengths and weaknesses, and why you deserve to be selected as a beneficiary of this program, together with a bio-data and one 1X1 photo to

"My Trabaho at Job Market"
Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg.
Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague St.
Makati City
E-mail address: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

2. On April 21, thirty(30) letters will be picked (by drawing at random the letters from a box).
3. These 30 letter senders will be invited to attend a 2-day Career Planning Workshop for free to be conducted by Career Systems, Inc.
4. From these 30 letter senders, ten (10) will be selected by career mentors to be given the following assistance:
    - i. Weekly career coaching sessions good for two months by a trained and qualified career mentor
    - ii. Two (2) outfits suitable to the targeted job of the applicant
    - iii. A makeover by a reputable grooming salon to prepare her / him for his / her first job interview.
    - iv. Free attendance in a two-day Resume Preparation/ Interview Seminar
    - v. Cash of P5,000 to be used in going to interviews, making letters of application and resumes, photos and other expenses that will be incurred in their job hunt for two months.
5. Announcement of the partial and full beneficiaries shall be done in "My Trabaho at DZRH" which is aired every Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m. on 666 on your AM radio dial and published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer in "My Trabaho at Job Market."
6. Stories on the mentors, sponsors and winners shall be written and published in the "My Trabaho at Job Market" section in the Sunday People at Work / Job Market and featured in "My Trabaho at DZRH."
7. The organizers of this program does not guarantee the beneficiaries any job or employment. It will only provide the benefits listed above as assistance to increase the job seeker's chances in landing his/ her dream job.

DAVID'S SALON

PEOPLE *at* WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Subsection Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

How Stephen Covey becomes a highly effective person

By Bob Rosner

(*Working Wounded webmaster and columnist Bob Rosner interviewed Stephen Covey, author of "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People," recently. With 12 million copies sold in 32 languages, "Habits" probably is the best-selling business book of our time.*)

WORKING WOUNDED (WW): There is something I've heard you talk about that probably would surprise your readers—how you struggle to live up to the habits in your book.)

Covey: My kids would ask, "Why don't you practice what you teach? Listen to me, don't judge me." I have to say they're right. (Drawing a circle on the table with his finger.) Your knowledge area is here and your ignorance is the space on the outside of your knowledge. As your knowledge expands, your ignorance also expands.

WW: "Living the Seven Habits" (Simon and Shuster, 1999) is a storybook. How did you end up writing a storybook?

Covey: My wife convinced me that I have to tell more stories. I discovered that stories carry emotional content that is more powerful than all my so-called "theoretical analysis." It also came from sitting in the public restroom during the breaks in my program listening to what people really think about my speeches!

WW: Any stories from the book that moved you?

Covey: Colin Halls heads up one of the largest retail organizations in South Africa. One day, he is playing Monopoly with his son. He doesn't only beat his son but really piles it on. His son says, "Father, it's only a game." He asks himself, what has become of me? He goes deep inside himself and begins to explore every rationalization—explores them in depth and finally concludes apartheid is wrong. I gained a tremendous reverence for the power inside people.

WW: You've written a book on time management, "First Things First" (Simon and Shuster, 1994). What did you learn?

Covey: Don't get schedule-oriented; be principle-oriented. Have schedules, but keep them soft so you have plenty of time for spontaneity, your children, your family, and one-on-one time with the key people in your business. Those are the key elements that have high leverage.

WW: You are a person who loves to learn. But what would you say to a

HOW/B13

STEPHEN Covey LIRIO MAPA/CONTRIBUTOR

2 YEARS DELIVERY

ENTRY
ENTRY
2 BEDROOM UNIT
65.11 SQM.
3 BEDROOM UNIT
108.29 SQM.

Need a home at FORT BONIFACIO ?

Shop around FIRST then See us LAST !!!

Many have been fooled
You can be fooled too!

Some sellers just diverted
YOUR MONEY to finish
uncompleted Projects,
Or worse, use your money to
pay their huge overdue debts.
Construction of your
unit is the last priority.
That is why the delivery takes
5-6 years, sometimes 7-8 years,

Find out why we are 40% lower,
and how "BUILD TO OWN" can
protect your hard earned money

Future way of owning homes...
Doing it today

Kensington
PLACE
1ST AVE. FORT BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY

OUR DIRECT COST
P49,2[illegible]

MIDDLEMEN
DEVELOPER'S PRICE
P75,0[illegible]

Model Unit open Mon to Sun 10:00 am-6:00 pm
for more information
637-0234 / 635-5375

GW
35 YEARS
OF EXPERIENCE

BANCO DE ORO
UNIBANK
DEPOSITORY &
DISBURSEMENT BANK

2bU! to be young • to be you • to be young • To be you!

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

CLUB MANILA EAST
BORACAY
Station 2, Front Beach, Malay Aklan
CALL 658-2065 , 660-2805
658-0458 loc.303

Picks and bows

Silent Sanctuary
ELLIPSIS OF THE MIND

Silent Sanctuary releases its debut album called 'The Ellipsis of the Mind'

By Diego Rosano P. Mapa
2bU! Contributor

THE UNDERGROUND scene can't breathe anymore. It gives birth to new bands everyday at the rate of five per second, and one of its newest alternative babies is Silent Sanctuary.

However, this band is not your usual guitar rock-driven group. This one's got a chugging mini-orchestra, a six-piece gang with Norman Dellosa on vox and guitars, Paolo Legaspi on bass, Allen Calixto on drums, Anjo Inacay on cello, Chino David on violin and Jett Ramirez on viola.

The members are between the ages of 19 to 20 and are all still in college, except for Allen.

In the beginning, the band was a guitar-led trio. When it had the opportunity to perform in "In the Raw" at unTV (channel 37), the members arranged string parts into the songs for the special. That's how the idea for the orchestral sound was born.

Although the band never intended to get as far as putting up an album, the members naturally wanted an avenue to play the songs they have created.

The guys' influences range from Apocalyptica, Dave Matthews Band, Goo Goo Dolls, Metallica, Cynthia Alexander, Barbie's Cradle and even Bach, to name a few.

With the help of their parents, plus some gig money, *pamasko*, and playing with real orchestras (Chino and

PICKS/ C2

Only BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Gives You The Fully Loaded Auto Loan!

Family Fun Adventures

Getting an Auto Loan? You're in luck!

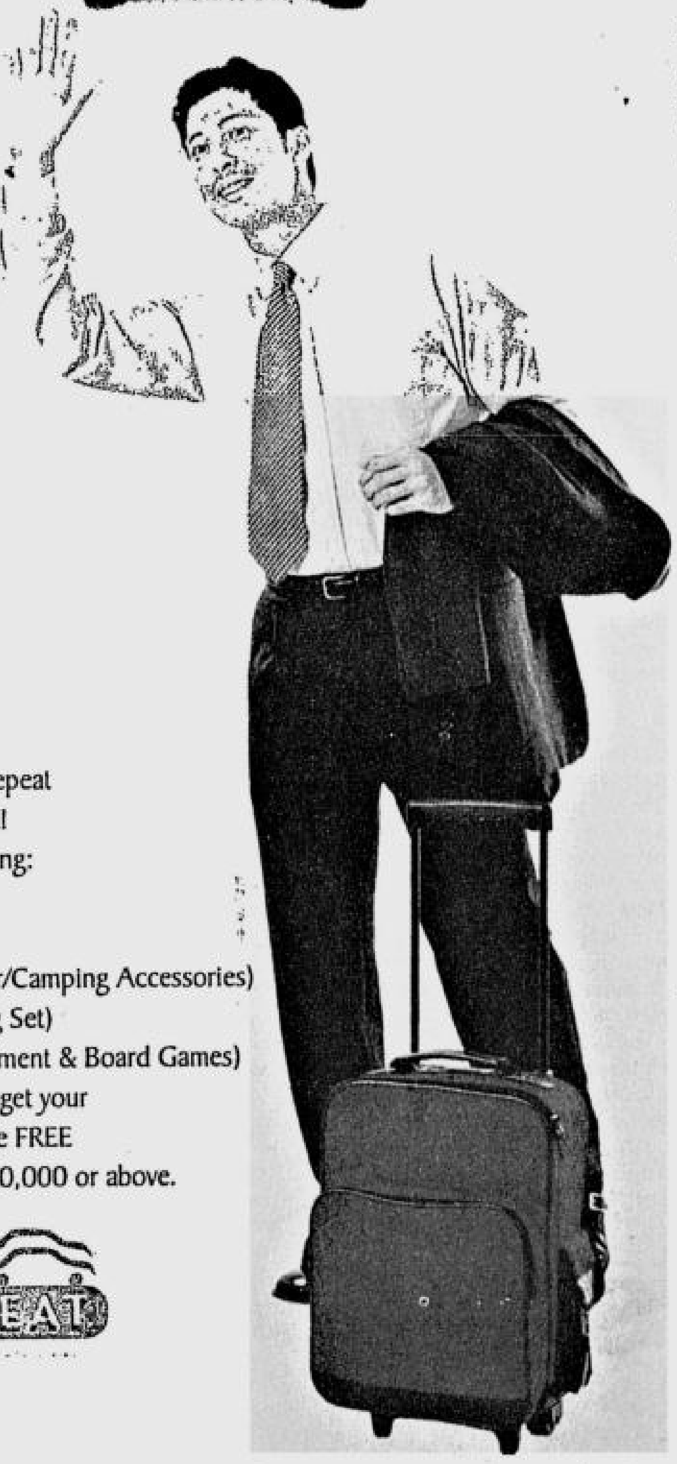
Because you can enjoy
a Family Fun Adventures overnight
package for your family at a hotel
or resort of your choice!
It comes FREE with a minimum
amount financed of ₱450,000.

If you happen to be in the provinces, you can visit us and go car crazy at our Auto Madness events!

Happy Family Auto Loan and your local car dealers have got hundreds of new cars under one roof for you!
Plus, more discounts and more perks!
Watch out for the Auto Madness in the following cities:

- Dagupan - March 25 - 27
- Pampanga - March 26 - 28
- Davao - March 26 - 28

AUTO MADNESS



Getting a repeat loan with us? We've got a surprise for you!

We're giving you a Treat for Repeat showcase of your choice, FREE!
Choose from any of the following:

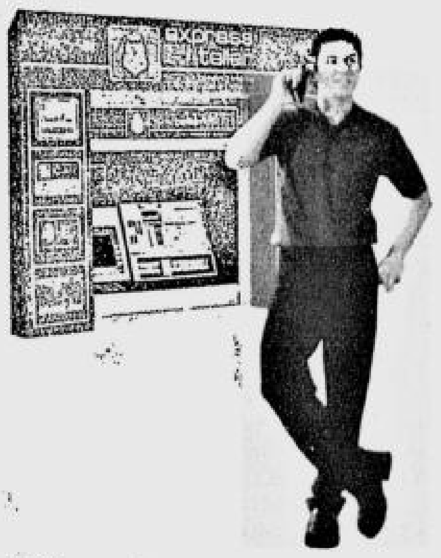
- Dad's Car Care Tools
- Mom's Kitchen Corner
- Family Picnic Picks (Outdoor/Camping Accessories)
- Family Carry Alls (Travel Bag Set)
- Kids' Fun Fest (Sports Equipment & Board Games)

On top of this, you could also get your
Family Fun Adventures package FREE
if your financed amount is ₱450,000 or above.

Treat FOR REPEAT

If you are a BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank depositor, we have more offers for you!

Just visit your branch of account and see your branch managers.



Plus, you can pay your monthly amortization through BPI's electronic banking convenience!

You can easily pay your Auto Loan Check-Free through BPI Express Phone 89-100 or Express Online. You can also opt to have your BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank deposit account debited through the automatic debit arrangement.

What other bank can give you all the best deals on your Auto Loan? At BPI Family Savings Bank, you get expert advice from our friendly loan officers, low, low interest rates, affordable down payments, and 1-day credit decision. Plus, the longest monthly payment terms of up to 5 years! And, a built-in auto insurance option*.

BPI Family Savings Bank's Happy Family Auto Loan leaves all others way behind!

For more information, log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com or call 845-6777.

HAPPY FAMILY AUTO LOAN

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
It's All in the Family!

*For loan applications submitted at Head Office or GMMA BPI and BPI Family Savings Bank branches only.
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to ₱100,000.

Per DTI Permit No. 5374 & 0170 Series of 2003 & 2004

The unbreakable sounds of Bamboo

By Christian B. Bautista
2bU! Correspondent

The latest entrant in the Philippine 'banda' scene has fresh music and unpretentious lyrics to endear itself to listeners

BAMBOO has recently risen to prominence with "As the Music Plays," the four-piece group's debut studio release.

Why bamboo?

"*Kasi di ba, kahit gaano kalakas yung* storm, even if the bamboo bends, it doesn't break," explains frontman Francisco "Bamboo" Mañalac, who returned to the local rock scene after a five-year hiatus in the States.

However, bassist Nathan Azarcon offers a more practical reason. "*Inisip namin, ang ganda ng tunog ng* bamboo. *At saka* marketing-wise, *mas makikilala kami kaagad ng tao.*"

Seasoned musicians

It took some time before the band decided to use its current name. Initially, Mañalac was against the whole idea.

"*Ako, ayoko sa* Bamboo *eh. Pero* in the end, *bumigay din ako,*" he says.

The band went through a number of names before Bamboo, the most whimsical of which included Audio Barangay and Bamboo's Organs.

Composed of Mañalac, Azarcon, guitarist Ira Cruz and drummer Vic Mercado, the band's lineup boasts of seasoned musicians whose resumes are dotted with stints with popular rock groups.

Mañalac and Azarcon were original members of alternative rock group Rivermaya. On the other hand, Cruz and Mercado used to be with pop band Passage.

Despite the number of years the band members have piled up in the music scene, they are not exactly too keen on talking about their past exploits.

"We'd rather not talk about where we came from. We'd rather talk about where we are now," says Cruz.

"That goes for us, too," Mañalac quickly adds, while pointing to long-time compatriot Azarcon. "*Gusto ko pag-usapan yung* music."

Maturity

In spite of the band's reluctance to talk about their past, experience has certainly served them well in producing their first album.

"Songwriting and arrangement-wise, nag-mature *kami*," says Cruz, who recently won "Guitarist of the Year" at the NU Rock Awards.

"*Eto yun eh. Yung* lyrics, *mas mabigat sa mga dating ginawa namin. Minsan naglalagay kami ng* contrast *na mahina yung* music *pero yung letra,* boom, *sapol ka,*" Azarcon adds.

IRA Cruz, Nathan Azarcon, Vic Mercado and Bamboo Mañalac

The idea to form the band was hatched toward the end of Mañalac's stay in the US. He and Azarcon began talking about forming a band. Azarcon then enlisted the services of Cruz and Mercado. As soon as Mañalac returned to the Philippines, the group members scheduled a jam session.

However, conflicts arose immediately after the first time the band played together.

"First jam *namin, wala kaming nabuo. Kaya nag*-split *yung banda. Nag-away-away,*" Azarcon relates. The band eventually decided to give it another try, developing a stronger affinity toward each other because of growing pains.

"Great friendships are formed *'pag* nag-away muna kayo. After *nun, respeto.* So *ngayon,* solid *na kami,*" he adds.

Despite the public's excitement over Mañalac's return, the usually reserved frontman cringes at the prospect of his band's work being called a comeback.

"I don't see this a comeback. This is a new beginning. *Iba to eh.* It's about the band now," he explains.

"Personal opinion *ko*, this is the best work I've done so far. And proud *ako na kasama ko ang mga 'to.*"

A year's work

The album was spawned by a year's worth of work. "A year in the making *ito* (album). Sixty percent, *inuman lang kami. Tapos* jam for a few minutes. Somehow, at the end of the day, (*yung*) *nagawa namin* cohesive," says Mañalac.

The former Rivermaya lead vocalist recalls that it had been such a long time since he'd worked on an album that he had to re-acquaint himself with the process all over again. This, he relates, was quickly remedied by his bandmates.

"I think I was with the right guys. They made it a lot easier. It just flowed," he says. "The whole process *na ginawa namin,* jamming *lang.* So *pag dating sa* studio, *yun na.*"

The band's music has no formula, just verses and riffs borne out of countless hours of casual small talk.

"*Kuwentuhan lang. Yung lumalabas sa mga* debate *namin, biglang nagkaka-istorya,*" Cruz explains. Nevertheless, the members feel good about their first offering. "*Dugo namin yan,*" says Azarcon. "We don't play the music. The music plays us, man."

Where's Barkley?

By Gary Mercado
2bU! Correspondent

With NBA Live 2004, PC games maker EA Sports has outdone itself—despite the absence of a fave player

EVERY morning for the past few weeks, I perform my daily routine. I get to my desk, switch the computer on, turn on an application, make coffee, then get back to my PC just in time before the first few graphics come flying in on the screen.

No, it's not a website I'm working on, or some software tool that helps me with work, but something more important: EA Sports' latest version of the excellent NBA Live series, NBA Live 2004.

I have been playing NBA Live since the 2002 version, and I have to say, for a die-hard fan with hours of play under his belt, EA Sports has really outdone itself this time.

The 2003 version with Jason Kidd on the cover was a bit of a disappointment, as it opted for a more "arcade" approach to the game. Big stars like Paul Pierce or Kobe Bryant were simply unstoppable, with defenders turning to Jell-O once the big names started their drive to the basket.

I gave it a spin, but after finding out that the players whose moves I knew well were so different from those in the game, I didn't touch it again.

Different story

NBA Live 2004, though, with a lineup that's up to date as of October 2003, is a different story altogether. Realism is the word to remember here, with EA Sports adopting "10 Man Freestyle," an excellent addition that sets the pace in realism for video games in this genre.

According to EASport's spiel, 10 Man Freestyle was achieved by applying the now common single data point morphed into a wire-frame figure system used to emulate a player's individual movements, and using motion capture data to follow each player's positioning, technique and movement up and down the court.

This allows every player in the game to move independently both on offense and defense, but still as a team.

But if that's a boring explanation, here's a more exciting one: the Toyota Center, Houston Texas. Rockets guard Steve Francis dribbles the ball mid-court while San Antonio guard Tony Parker keeps an eye on him. Yao Ming is on the post, fronted by Tim Duncan.

Francis makes a move to rush the ball but pulls back. Mobley takes advantage of the diversion and uses the Ming pick to lose his defender and ask for the ball. Duncan is forced to switch to guard Mobley, leaving the shorter Manu Ginobili to guard Ming. Before Duncan can switch back, Yao leans on Ginobili, raising his hand for the ball. Francis flicks the ball high. It soars through the air, and in one motion the 7'6" former Shanghai Shark turns toward the goal, catches the pinpoint pass and slams it home with both hands for a rim-rattling alley-hoop slam that has the crowd gasping and the Argentine shooting guard sprawled helpless on the ground.

I kid you not. A 10-man freestyle offense allows for player movement and authenticity like no other.

Point guards like Steve Nash will utilize screens to get an open shot, shooting guards like Peja Stojakovic will slice through picks to get free for the three, centers like Shaq will overpower smaller opponents and power forwards like Chris Webber will give picks and back down on defenders while demanding to get a pass.

Defense is no different. Mike Bibby and Doug Chrisrie will quickly unleash a double team on ballhogs who hesitate too long with the ball. "The Glove" Gary Payton will earn his monicker if you are even slightly careless, and you better think twice about driving in the lane if you play in Detroit, or Ben Wallace will swat it into the stands.

Niggling issues

Of course, the game is without its little niggling issues. I've been playing the All Star level, second to the highest (Superstar) level, and I've yet to get the hang of getting the ball to exactly the guy I want to give it to.

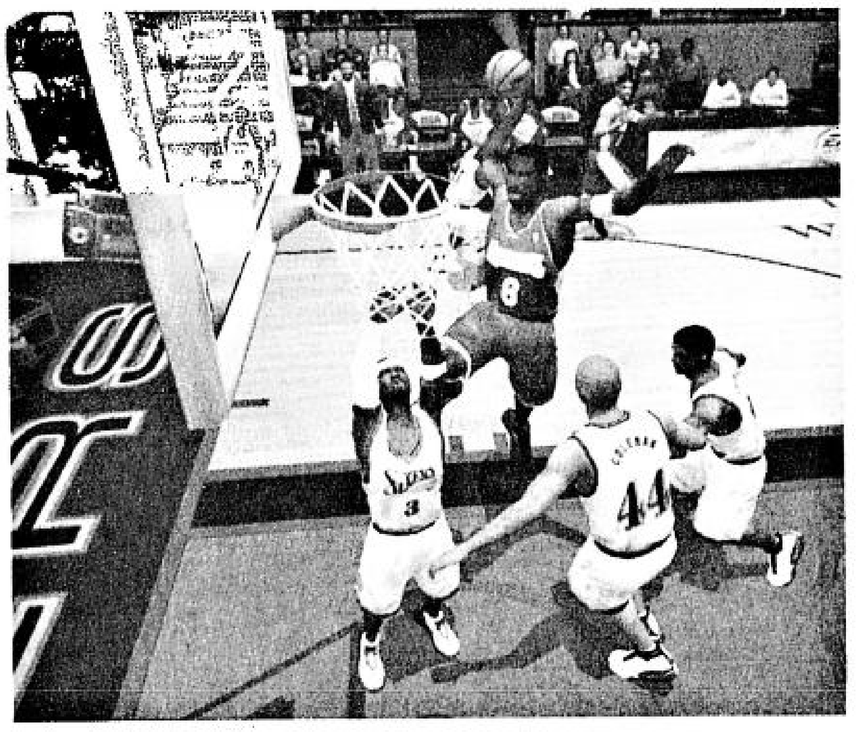
On the PC, the idea is to point the arrow to the general direction then pass, but many times I end up passing to someone else and it can be a source of frustration when you end up with a turnover.

Like previous versions, the game is almost infinitely adjustable. You can adjust lighting, shadows, reflections and such things as antiscopic, bilinear or trilinear filters, whatever those may be, although I'd suggest you stick to mid and low settings to keep the game from getting choppy.

Regarding gameplay, the more serious ballers can set up half-court or full-court defensive and offensive sets, with choices like 2-2-1, zone, man to man, 2-3, traps, shifts, full court presses, 3-2 traps or zones and the like, with some animation to help you see what will happen to boot.

The interface to do this, however, continues to be this extremely confusing several-page slow-loading system EA Sports likes so much.

Mike "The Czar" Fratello and Marv Albert provide the sometimes repetitive commentary that could use some tweaking. After such inanities as, "They need to find a way to contain the offense!" and hearing, "No good! Tried to adjust in the air but just too much contact in the play!" five times in one game, I was ready to turn it off, but unfortunately I needed the shot clock reminders and occasional explanations of bad calls.



There's a Dynasty mode that allows you to trade players along with recruit college players and draft picks, but strangely enough, big name players don't get picked up by other teams, and after some time I had a powerful all-star team with money to spare for anyone else that might come along.

I'm not sure if it's a bug, but it certainly took the bite out of the whole idea as I consequently steamrolled over most of my opponents. The game's artificial intelligence likes to be dramatic, as regardless of whom you're playing, they will always make a big run on the fourth quarter.

It makes for exciting endgames, but for the most part it's frustrating to see your powerful Dallas Mavericks squander a 10- to 15-point lead while the opposing Seattle SuperSonics make shot after magical shot, when they couldn't buy a basket in the previous three quarters.

Glaring omission

But forget all that. What I would lose sleep over is, when I played the '80s vs '90s All Stars, a glaring omission of blasphemic proportions came to my attention: Where is Charles Barkley?!

Sir Charles, The Round Mound Of Rebound, original Dream Teamer, one of the 50 greatest players in the NBA, is not here?

The '80s is a powerhouse with McHale, Bird and Erving as forwards, but for the '90s we have Grant Hill, Shawn Kemp and Penny Hardaway, great players all, but any of whom pales in comparison with the 1993 MVP.

At any rate, don't let my caffeine-induced carping make your mind up about the game. NBA Live 2004 is as truly realistic a game as I've ever seen, offering slam-bang action and hours of excellent fun regardless of whether you're a basketball ignoramus or a banner-waving, face-painting NBA maniac.

A highly recommended must is to play via network against a human opponent, which adds an even more challenging dimension to the game. Trash talking is optional, of course, but highly recommended as well. Enjoy!

Picks and bows

From page C1

CHINO David on violin and Anjo Inacay on cello

Jett play for the Manila Symphony Orchestra II), the guys independently produced and recorded their debut album "The Ellipsis of the Mind" under Strokesfloyd Records.

Pleading vocals

Silent Sanctuary had its album launch last Feb. 20 at Millenia Bar, Kamuning, QC. The record is a collection of jangly and distorted guitars, pleading vocals and soaring strings.

The striking album title, singer Norman says, refers to an author hiding thoughts with the use of ellipses. And that's what Silent Sanctuary is all about—escaping or hiding in a place where you can think of and realize things.

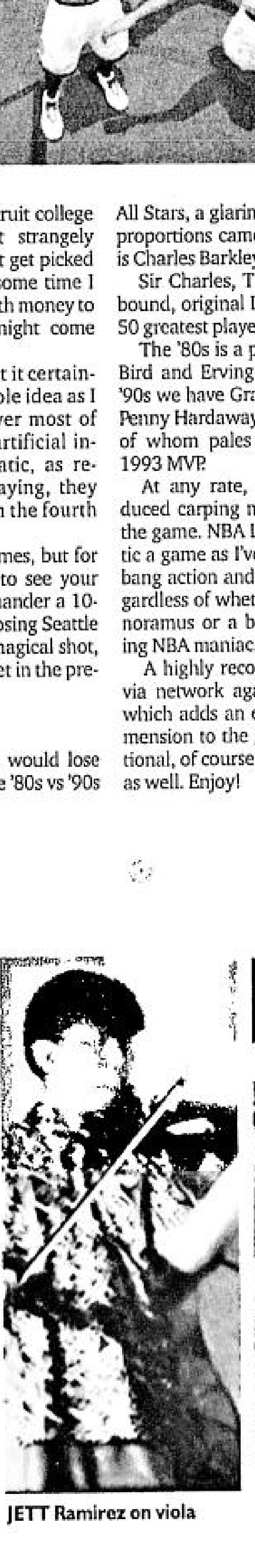
For Norman, playing and singing his confessions in songs is a form of sanctuary and release. The songs are about frustration, breakups, realizations and friendships.

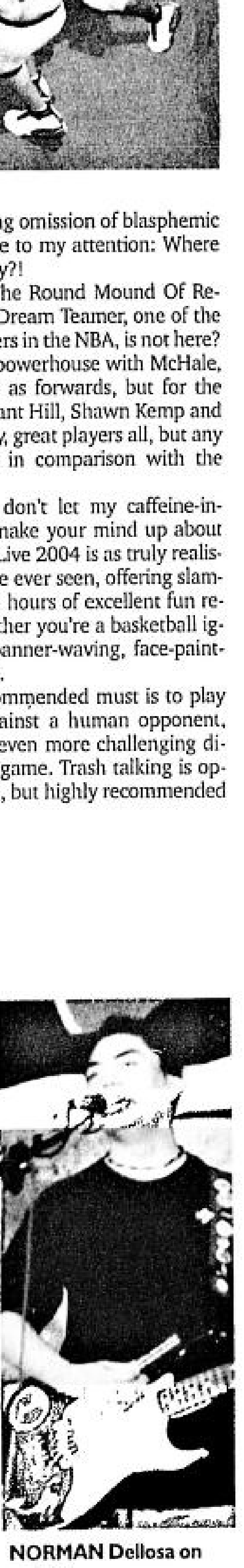
Watching Silent Sanctuary, the first things that will catch your attention are the cello and violins. Not only because seldom do you see classical musicians in a rock band, but also because the string instruments punch hard, like how horns go with big bands, reggae or ska.

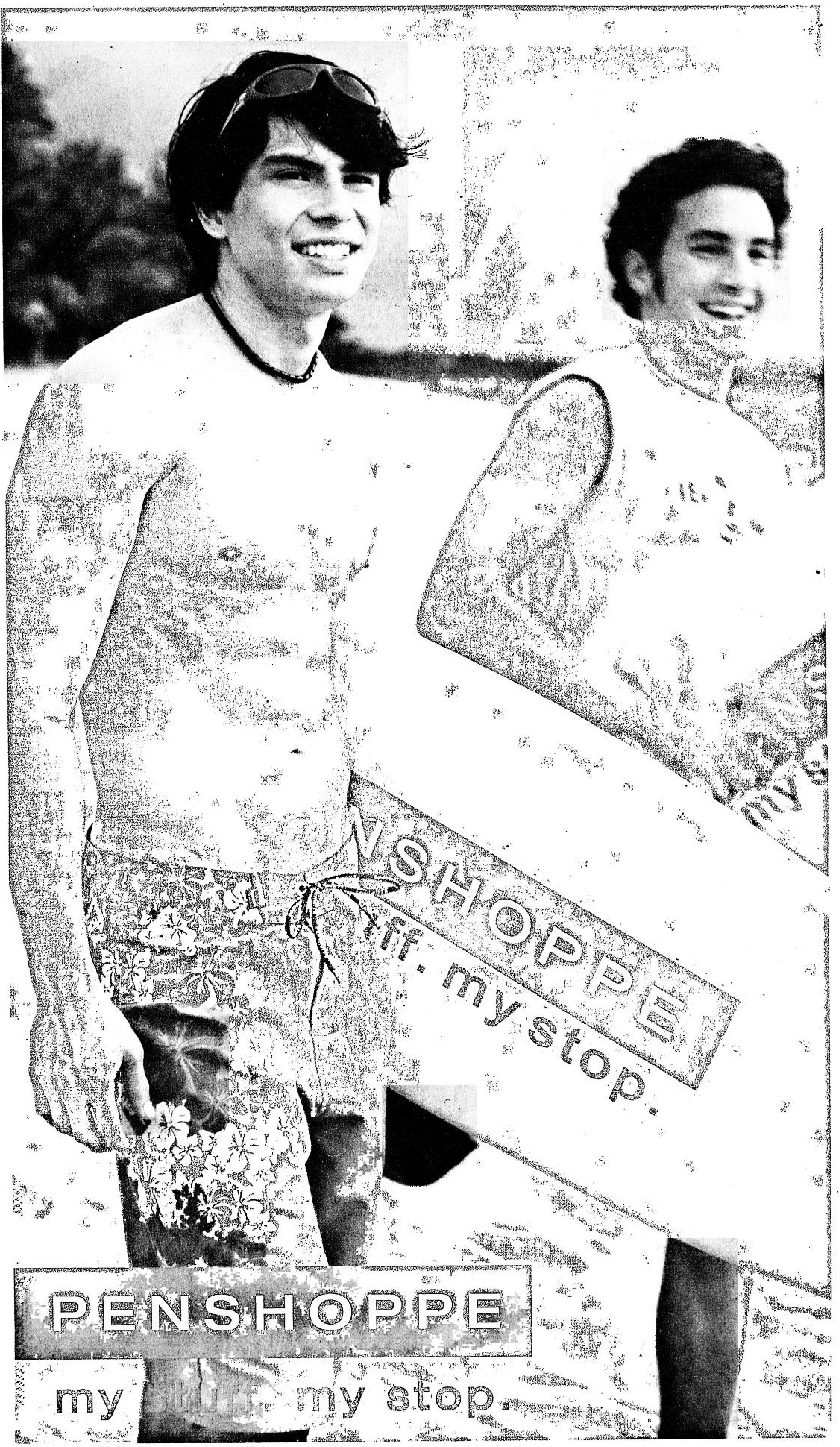
The mini-orchestra also sets the mood of the album. Sometimes, a song opens with a sad intro like "Broken in Silence," or eerie, as in the opening track "Praeludium Et Maestoso in Minore," or heart-warming, as in "Sleep to Dream."

Get out of the house, see this band live or grab a copy of their album, to find your own sanctuary in their one-of-a-kind music.

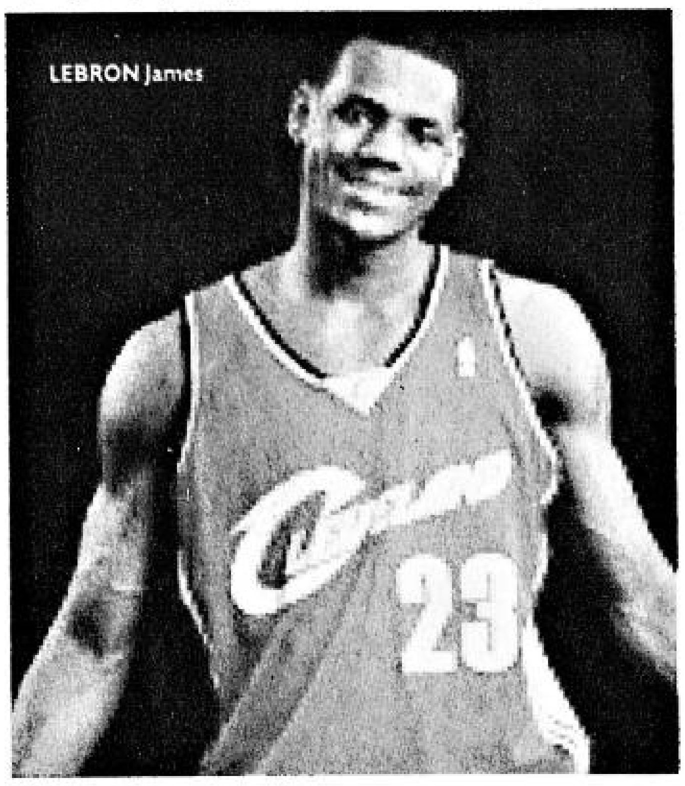
Visit http://silent sanctuary.tk


JETT Ramirez on viola


NORMAN Dellosa on guitars


NSHOPPE
ff. my stop.
PENSHOPPE
my stuff. my stop.

The biggest debate right now in the world of big-time basketball transfixes even local fans

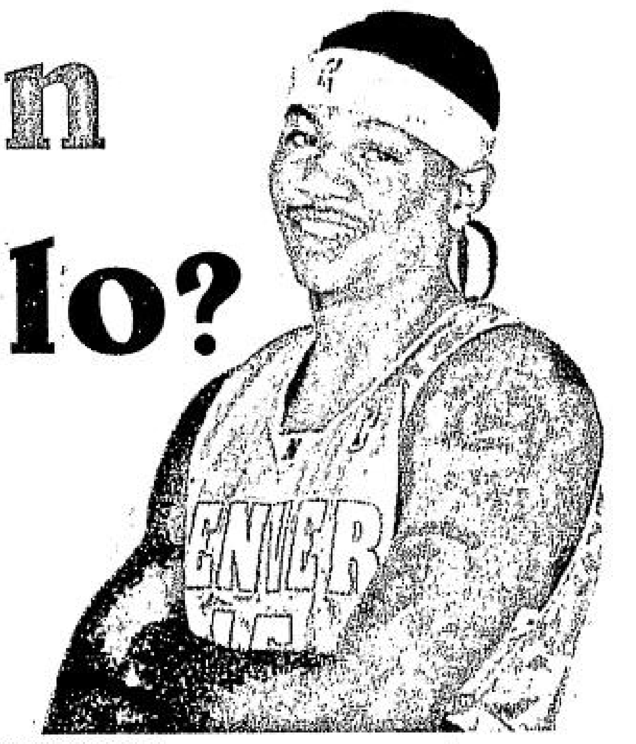

LEBRON James

Lebron or Carmelo?

By Emmanuel V. Papa
2bUI Correspondent

HE has the NBA body of a power-forward and the skills of a point-guard, and wears the number of all numbers, the most recognizable 23.

A towering guard at 6'8", Lebron James is certainly the most popular basketball player right now. With all the hype surrounding this 19-year-old rookie (including a $90 million-deal with Nike), Lebron sure looks hell-bent on proving that he's worth all the trembling buzz.


CARMELO Anthony

A step behind Lebron in terms of popularity or hype is the Denver Nuggets' Carmelo Anthony. Also a 19-year-old freshie, this former Syracuse Orange Man appeals more to those who want their basketball as simple and as smooth as possible.

MARVIN Cruz

With a good outside range, not to mention a nice shooting form, Melo has immediately become a factor in helping make his team a potential play-off contender.

KAT Cunanan

The two have already established their respective fans' clubs, and the debates as to whether who's really a better baller continues to rage on.

LJ's hordes say that the reason the Cavaliers haven't been winning is that only a few of Lebron's teammates have been helping him carry the team, while Carmelo has more dependable players surrounding him.

JOSEPH Manzano

Hmmm, let's see what some basketball fans think. Lebron or Carmelo?

JULIO Veloso

Lebron. *Dahil siya yung may pinakamaraming* points before turning 19.—**Joseph Manzano, student-coach**

Lebron. He's bigger and stronger, and he looks like he's still reserving some part of his game. And when he plays, *parang* effortless.—**Julio Veloso, conditioning coach**

Carmelo. He has no wasted moves. Simple basketball *lang siya*, the way you really should play the game. *Pero bilib din ako kay* Lebron.—**Jenkins Mesina, basketball player**

ENZO Naoe

Carmelo. *Mas nadadala niya yung* team *sa panalo. Si* Lebron *maganda nga yung* stats, *mas madami naman ang talo.*—**Enzo Naoe, student**

I like Lebron more 'cause he recognizes a mismatch and immediately capitalizes on it. *Taob agad ang kalaban.*—**Marvin Cruz, basketball player**

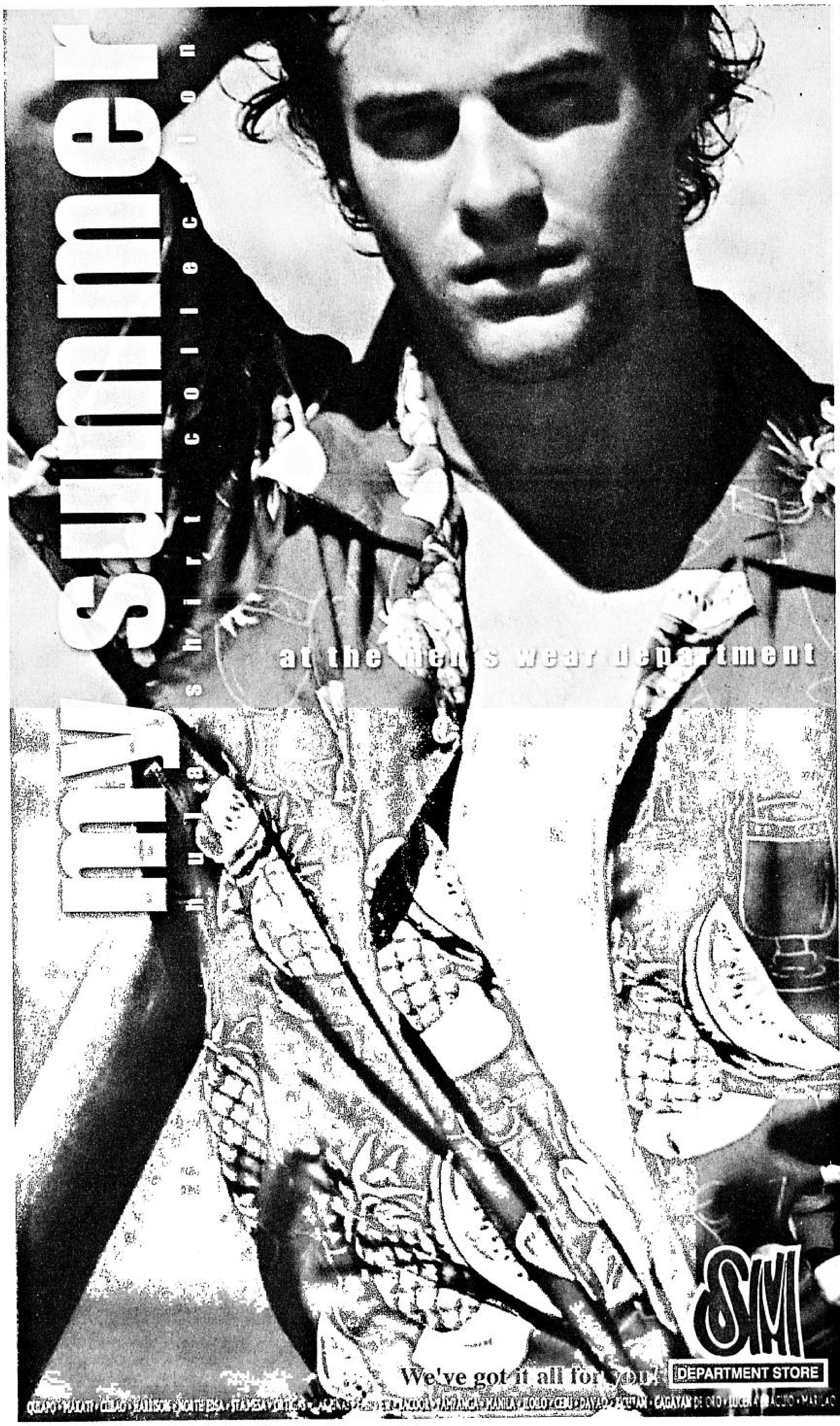
ROSELLA Lopez

I like Carmelo 'cause he's more consistent.—**Rosella Lopez, student**

Lebron. He has the NBA body of Karl Malone and the point-guard skills of Magic. Plus in a game in Chicago, he registered a triple-double as the Cavs crushed the Bulls, which made his idol, Michael Jordan (who watched the game) proud.—**Kat Cunanan, basketball player**

Carmelo, 'cause he's more fundamentally sound. *Mas basic yung laro niya.*—**Paolo Papa, student**

PAOLO Papa



LIFE 2bU! to be young • To be you! • to be young

edback, text us at (0918) 382-40 1160
or e-mail us at pr_life n.ph

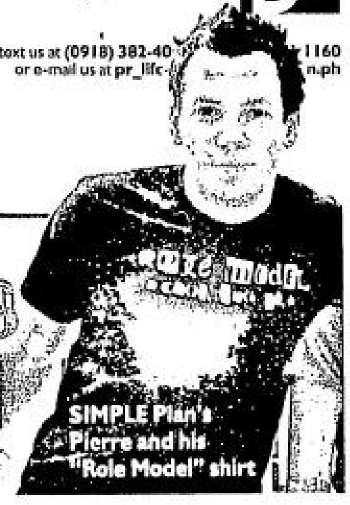
Fashion freaks on Singapore streets

PUNK ROCK LOVE. I saw this couple at the market in the morning and ran into them at a bookstore across town in the afternoon.

Text and photos by Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

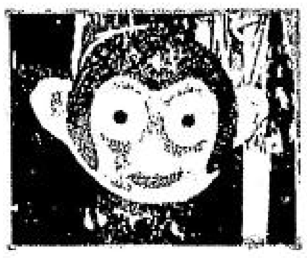
I REALLY didn't have much time to go shopping. But I did get to do a lot of walking, and I also got to hang out with some "universal fans" (they're fans of anyone who's famous) at the hotel lobby. Plus, it's P33 to a Singaporean dollar. So I took pictures instead.

More photos on D3



SIMPLE Plan's Pierre and his "Role Model" shirt

DUNKIN' DONUTS
Donut de Fruta
₱99 a dozen
New Flavor!
avocado
Promo period is from Feb. to March 31, 2004.



IN fact, they love Paul Frank so much, they turned Julius the Monkey into a beaded bag!

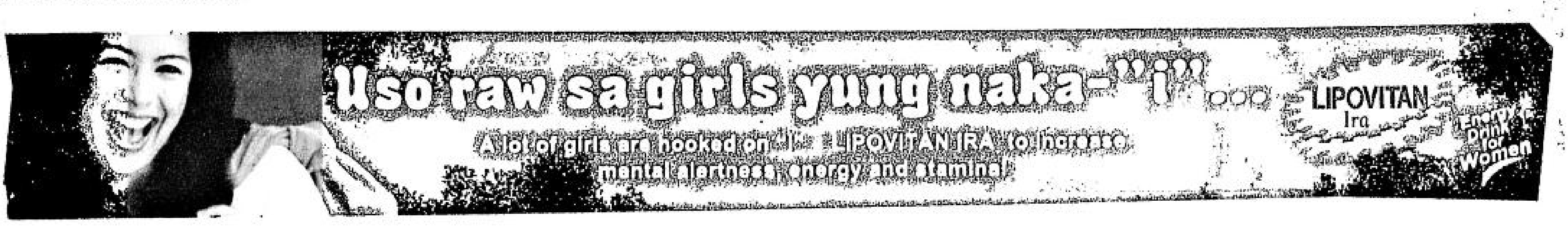
THEY'RE Nivea promo people. Would you buy their products from them?

LOVE the striped undershirt.

HEY LOOK! Pam got me the same bag from Defect. This fan kept asking me if I had seen any "celebrities" at the Fullerton.

FRENCH CONNECTION
exclusively available at Rustan's Makati

FCUK FM
Live 01.04.04 LISTEN AT FCUK.COM



Uso raw sa girls yung naka-"i"...
A lot of girls are hooked on "i" - LIPOVITAN IRA to increase mental alertness, energy and stamina!
LIPOVITAN Ira
Energy Drink for Women

LOUD and clear. DJ Mauricio Aviles mixing it at Nuvo

FRENCH PASSION. Alliance Française de Manille director Philippe Normand, cultural committee head Lulu Tan-Gan and Cosmo editor Myrza Sison

FANTASTIC PLASTIC. Robby and Raya Mananquil with Valerie de los Santos

D' SOUND SENSATION. Rosanne Escudero, DJ Alex Jentes and Simone of European acoustic sensation, D'Sound

EMBASSY AGENCY. Jules Salonga of Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, Vincent Flores, and Jackie Jose of the Swiss Embassy

Flex in the city

Tim Yap

"PACKED like sardines" used to be the measure of a wildly successful event—if we were at Woodstock with the rest of the world raising the bar on rock and rave.

But if you're in Greenbelt, epicenter of yuppiedom—where the runway extends from Nuvo to Segafredo and back—you need your space to work it, before you grab a glass of water. But is it worth it, or should you just reverse it? (Thanks for the words, Missy.)

Nuvo and Temple have been raking it in terms of events at Greenbelt's rive gauche (not that GB2 is surrounded by water). The tents set up outside have paid off and have resulted in better business, with outside being the new inside, at least in the non-smoking heart (or is it lungs) of Makati's party district.

A fortnight ago, Nuvo blocked all walkways leading to all other night spots with the unveiling of that little rubber—er, plastic—card that Citibank introduced to the summer crowd of partyphiles present that night. "So mini, so much" couldn't have been a better slogan—the Citibank Clear Visa Mini (whew, so mini, so much, really!)—as Manila got an earful of **DJ Mauricio Aviles.**

Mauricio who? Well, since we're not San Francisco homeys, we're not familiar with DJ Mauricio's music—except that he's part of the forward-thinking urban music movers otherwise known as Naked Music. Ahhh. I can see your heads nod now. Those sexy-looking albums with even sexier sounding music. "Soulful, funky, light, emotional, feel-good and unconventional," is how he describes his tunes—well, just what Manila needs.

And Manila indeed got a dose of it that night, with hipsters parading in and out of Louie Ysmael's chi-chi hotspot wearing their "minis" where it mattered. Style A-lister **Raya Mananquil** wore it as an earring while another fashionista wore it as a belt. **Corey Wills**, the reel and real life surfer dude that we see in all of the flexi-mini cards' billboards, wore it as a necklace and posed with the lady bankers going bonkers over him.

FLEX in the Citi. Visa country manager Anton Romulo and Citibank country business manager Nina Aguas

SIBLING SMACK. Frogpad's DJ Niko gives his Manila-based sister, Rose, a warm welcome.

BIG men like small cards. Edward Mendez and Alvin Abelardo

They say size matters—well sometimes, maybe the smaller the better. Instead of holding the event in a big venue (which maybe they should have done, considering the amount of people who showed up), they chose the intimate route to showcase the size (40 by 60 millimeters, to be exact) of the card, which is 43 percent smaller than your driver's license. A hole in the bottom (this is getting to be kinky) and left corner allows you to attach this fantastic plastic to your key chain, cell phone or other carry on devices, say your chihuahua's dog tag, your portable whip, or your Chanel surf board.

Wherever you wish to put your Mini Citi card—just flaunt it. Here, it's not size that counts, but the fraction of your transaction. Kerching, kerching!

French revolution

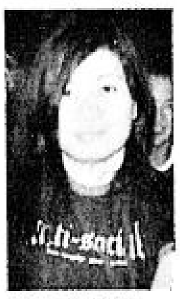
Another night had Francophiles grooving to another beat. Alliance Française, that dynamic and admirable group of young movers out to push the frontiers of art, staged yet another coup. "Schematic Electronic Sessions" had an electric fusion of Filipino and French music artistry that jolted the halls of the revived Republic of Malate.

The marquee belonged to Frogpad, Europe's fastest rising electro-pop authority based in Bordeaux, France. What makes the group extra special for us nationalistic ones was that the group's lead vocalist was none other than statuesque Filipina **Liza Guansing**, who was discovered by French music mixers **Vincent Ramondou** and **Eric Boidin** during their five-year stay in our local shores. Their synergy resulted in a cross-cultural flavor that the music scene so craves at this point where bland thump-thump-thump music reigns.

Neo-'80s, trip hop, alternative, even gothic have been used to describe Frogpad's sound. The band really uses basic lyrics and eclectic sounds to move listeners the world over. The title comes secondary to their desired effect.

GIRLS just wanna go Down Under. Citibank's Florian Pascasio, Sonya Perez, Leah de Guzman and Marge Duavit with the guys of Thunder from Down Under

PRETTY girl in the Citi. Antoinette Enciso


SCHEMATIC schmastic. Cultural officer Christine Sace

MODEL mania. PMAP'S Rachel Soriano and Pia Cabreira

And what an effect they had over this city. Uptown went downtown—from the diverse fields of fashion, art, electro and punk—all shook their booty and left their inhibitions at the door to groove to the music of **DJ Niko**, a.k.a. Ajax Tow, Frogpad's newest member, who jammed with underground favorites DJs **Rubber Inc** and **Flow 44**.

Republic's Old Manila appeal contrasted well with the contemporary power of electronica.

Well, with people like the ones behind Alliance (kudos to **Philippe Normand** and team) who make it a point to stage exhibits, shows and parties to make city living a little bit more interesting, the scene is well on its way to moving out of "Les Miserables" mode and into a state of *joie de vivre, je ne sais quois*, chic, *moi*, etc... (I'm running out of French...) Cultural cocktails, anyone?

More French kissing

The love affair just doesn't end. This Wednesday sees the launch of another F-thing. FCUK, that four-letter brand that has become synonymous with hip, is set to open in Manila with a bang. In fact, it explodes tonight at 6 at the Manila Polo Club.

What is the sound of being FCUK-ed? That's French Connection UK for those with dirty minds. Check out what the funky set is up to tonight as they show off their latest FCUK collection.

Tomorrow at 10 p.m., the martini-guzzling crew of **Celine Lopez, DJ Montano** and **Miguel Rosales** host a Nuvo-yage of trippy music and overdressed people. It promises to be a delilah free night, so fight, fight, fight.

Friday and Absolut invites you to "Feel" their vibe and have a few shots while you're at it. Follow the white light toward Forbes Town Center and indulge in what the party gods have to offer. Absolut-ly fabulous!

Have a Super week ahead, partyphiles.

DANCE REPUBLIC. "It" artist Kiko Escora doing the "tongue" dance

FROGPAD minus the backstage jitters—DJ Niko; Liza Guansing, who is Filipina; and Vincent Ramondou

ALLIANCE MOVEMENT. The group with Alliançe Française de Manille events coordinator Jorell Legaspi

MINI and her men. Raffy Keifer, Rich Herrera, Kate Torralba and Yaparazzi

---

Girls of summer

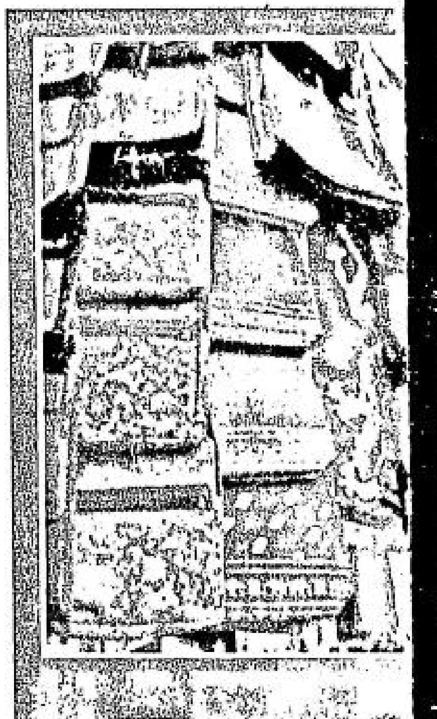
Penshoppe's beach belles welcome summer with charm and spunk

Text by Marla Miniano
Photos by Mark Sablan

GIFTED with gorgeous looks, exuding self-confidence, and blessed with a knack for making everything around them seem livelier and more vibrant, these girls ultimately fit Penshoppe's Summer Collection to a T. Meet Ingrid, Ala and Lucy as they show us how to have serious fun under the sun.

Ingrid Holm

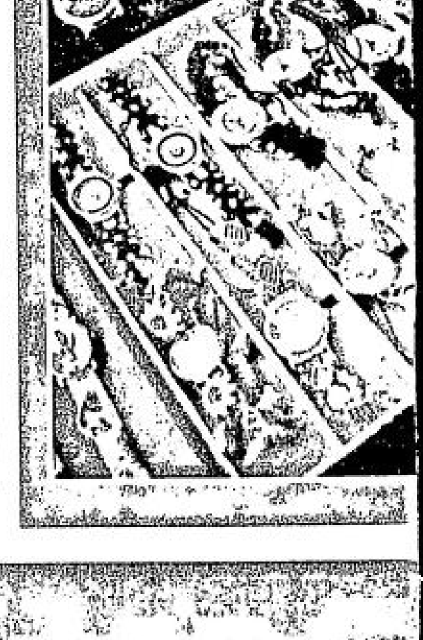
Age: 17
Has been with Penshoppe for: A month
Started modeling at: 12
School: Finished high school at ISM, now in college at Norway (Penshoppe just flew her in for the photo shoot.)
Sibs: Younger sis Liv and one baby brod
No time for: Boyfriends (Sorry, guys.)
Pinoy cravings: *Adobo, balut*, fish balls, *isaw*, mangosteen, green mangoes with sugar (Yes, sugar. She swears it's good.)
Choice flicks: Artsy movies, "Jose Rizal"
Thinks OPM rocks because of: Parokya ni Edgar and Jay-R
Obviously a: Beach person
Special skill: Cooking *adobo*
Fellow Penshoppe model she instantly clicked with: Lucy Watmore
Future plans: Finish media studies, continue modeling
Betcha didn't know that: She's half-Norwegian; her father is from Anilao, Batangas; she can understand Tagalog, Norwegian and Spanish; and she was really scared when she recently did a photo shoot near the Bilibid prison!
Why 2bU! loves her: Her genuine warmth eventually shines through despite her initial shynes Pleasantly funny and completely down-to-eart chatting with her seems like the most natur thing in the world.



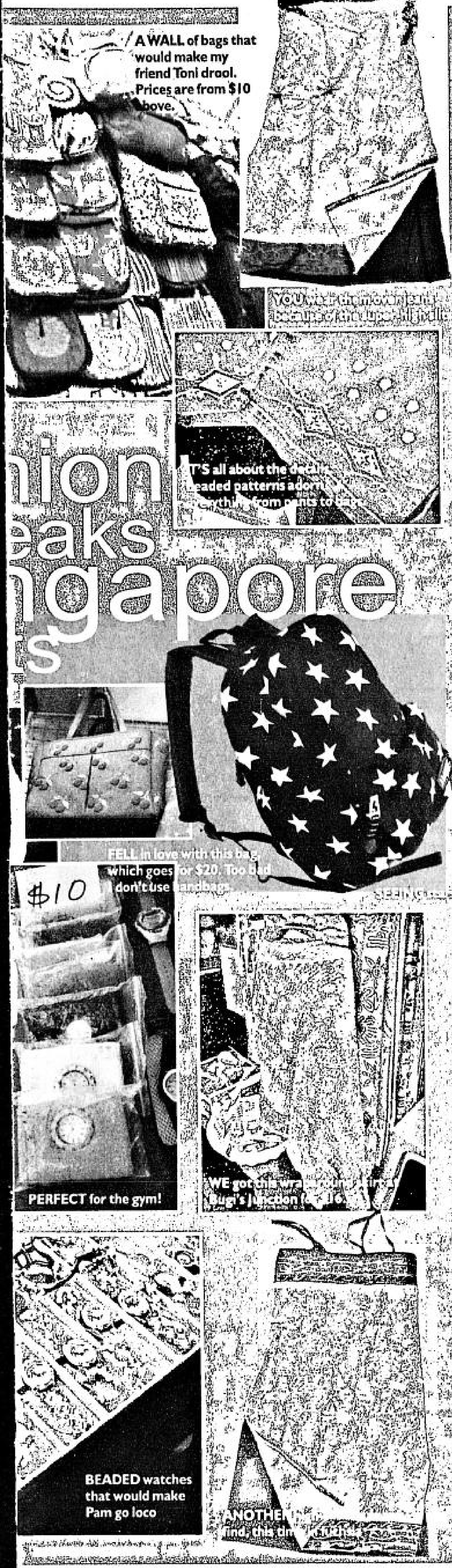
Fas fr on Si stree

FURRY bags that come in all sorts of patterns for non-asthmatics

GRABBED a racco backpack at the Nig Safari shop. I'm sor just think they' the cutest little thi



BEST COPY AVAILABLE


A WALL of bags that would make my friend Toni drool. Prices are from $10 above.

YOU wear them over jeans because of the super-high slit

T'S all about the detail. Beaded patterns adorn everything from pants to bags

nion
eaks
ngapore
s

FELL in love with this bag, which goes for $20. Too bad don't use handbags.

SEEING

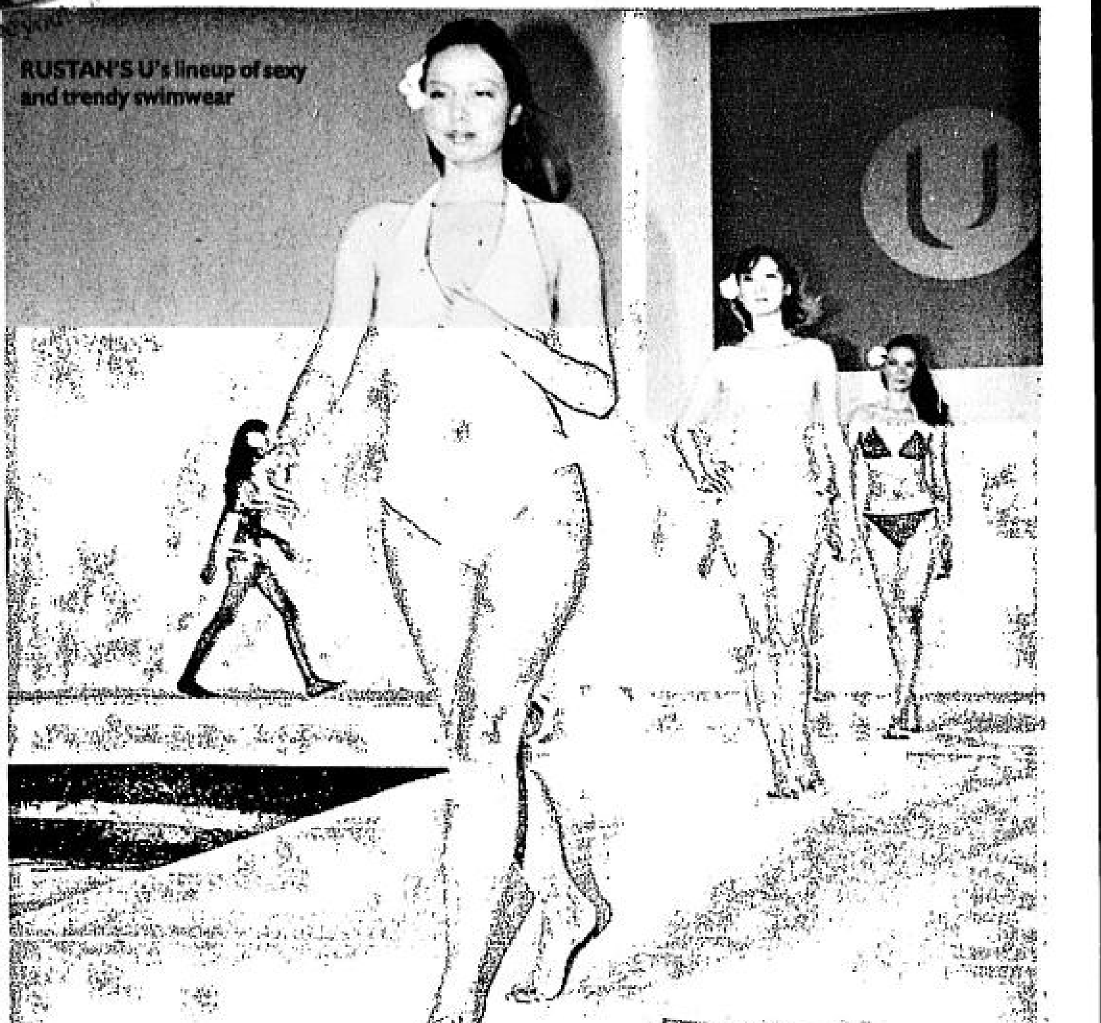
PERFECT for the gym!

WE got this wraparound skirt at Bugi's Junction for $16.

BEADED watches that would make Pam go loco

ANOTHER find, this time for the

SUMMER style from Beach Rays


RUSTAN'S U's lineup of sexy and trendy swimwear

GLOW with the vibrant colors of Rampage and Culte Femme.

Hot pool of looks for one swell summer

By Francine Palines
2bU! Correspondent

FRESH, fun and definitely flirty are the keywords to describe the look for summer 2004.

Last Thursday, a spring/summer sneak-peek was held at the Hotel InterCon to showcase designs by notable brands—Vivienne Tam, U, XOXO, Zegna, YVIP and Anna Sui, to name a few—and their take on this season's look.

As live Caribbean music filled the poolside air, vibrant hues, tropical colors and fun prints dominated the show—much like Tessa Prieto-Valdes, who was a walking paradigm of the show's kaleidoscope colors. She was clad in an ash-mint orange dress under a fuchsia crepe design, with a pink-feathered headpiece, to boot.

What's hot?

It's looking like a bright (and colorful) future for up-and-coming import, Muchacha, as it previewed its ultra-cute capris and sheer tops.

The watercolor-inspired chiffon dresses by Vivienne Tam would bring out the romance this summer while Anna Sui grabbed everyone's attention with her signature funky shirts—perfect for any daytime stroll.

Cropped denims by Earl, and the sculpted minis from Hollywood Jeans looked great for trips in the mall or outings with the *barkada*.

It was all feminine and classy for Sinequanone, as represented by a white tailored polo shirt which had a triangular emphasis on the collar and cuffs.

The sequined spaghetti tops from Babyphat and Hotkiss spoke glam and casual at the same time.

And for the evening? Criselda had an orange, sequined, matte-jersey dress that would be perfect for that dinner date on the beach.

Kid's wear Jam, with its chic, summer dresses and fun printed shirts, made you wish you were seven again.

Where would summer be without the bikinis? The U bikinis had one sole mission: to make boys drool.

The bold patterns and warm colors from the line would be perfect for a dip in the pool—or even better, for posing beside it.

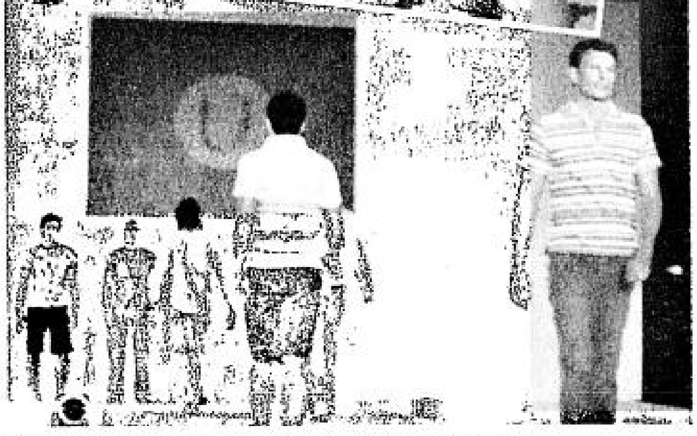
Hottah, hottah

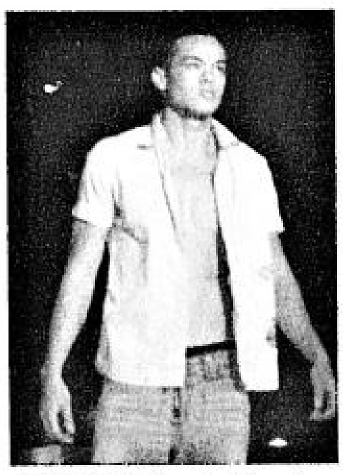
The boys were not forgotten.

Salt targeted the heterosexual man who was not afraid to be stylish, with its pastel hues and detailed designs.

Dunhill's casual-meets-preppy look, and the summer polos from U Men would make the boys look even hotter this summer.

To assure the public, the models made it their duty to pre-test the board shorts by taking a final plunge in the pool, as the fashion show came to an end.


YUM. A rush of fruity colors for menswear this summer


OOOH. A khaki embroidered shirt by U Men

SEX APPEAL. Style, without losing an inch of virility, in this detailed shirt by U Men

Ala Paredes

Age: 20
Has been with Penshoppe for: Almost a year
Started modeling at: 19 (Remember that Clean & Clear ad?)
School: To graduate from AdMU (AB-Comm)
Sibs: Erica, 25, and Mio, 15
Spends her free time: Sleeping, surfing the Net, blogging
Likes listening to: Rock, jazz and '80s music
Wants to learn how to: Cook and drive (Not simultaneously, though.)
Got to interview (for MYX): Diana Krall, Evanescence, Simple Plan, Westlife
Status: Taken. She's been with her boyfriend, who used to go to Ateneo, for a year now.
Usually craves for: Asian cuisine
Choice flicks: "Hook," "Y Tu Mama Tambien," "Dekada '70"
She's ultra-talented because: She dabbles in drawing, painting, acting, singing, playing the piano… basically anything except dancing.
Fellow Penshoppe model she instantly clicked with: Brad Turvey, for his *chismis*
Cool fact: Her thesis was about Mahal and Mura!
After graduating, she will: Work in a regular 9-5 job, and mostly do the things that make her perfectly happy.

Why 2bU! loves her: Evident in her spunky attitude and witty remarks, she undoubtedly has the brains to back up that beautiful face.

Lucy Watmore

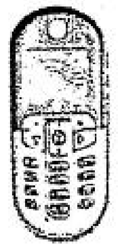
Age: 20
Has been with Penshoppe for: a month, like Ingrid
Started modeling at: 15 in Sydney, Australia, where she grew up
Bloodline: Fil-Chinese mom + British dad
Celeb look-alike: Natalie Portman
Adores watching: Musicals, musicals and more musicals
Loves listening to: R&B, Boyz II Men, Jay-R
Status: Also taken. Her 20-year-old boyfriend is a student/dancer back in Sydney.
Pinoy cravings: *Sinigang na hipon*, her aunt's *adobo*, the local fastfood chain's cheeseburgers and hotdogs
Handy abilities: Cooking fettuccini, swimming, playing cricket
Thinks Filipino men are generally: Pretty shy
Thinks the Philippines rocks because of: the food, shopping, her relatives (especially her cute little cousins) in Marikina, and Mark Sablan (haha)
Fellow Penshoppe model she instantly clicked with: Ingrid Holm
One thing she loves about Penshoppe: Their jeans!

Wants to: Be taller (she's 5'6"), try acting, go into film production and conceptualization, and model as long as she can.
Why 2bU! loves her: With shiny black locks and expressive green eyes, this gal's exquisiteness can really strike you when you're talking to her up close. As Ingrid fondly puts it, "Get away from me, you're too pretty!"

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

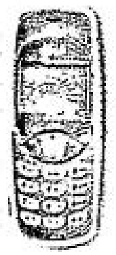
Sun can't get any lighter than this.
sun
SureLoad
PREPAID KIT
For as low as P6,500 get back P6,000 worth of load + a phone!

A Sun SureLoad Prepaid Kit gives you P250 monthly load and 50 monthly FREE text for 2 years plus, a cool phone!



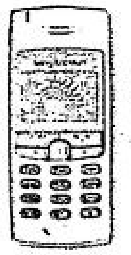
MOTOROLA C201

SureLoad Kit Price	**P 6,500**
P250 load for 24 months	- 6,000
SureLoad Handset Cost	P 500
Save 87% on handset cost	



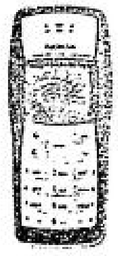
LG COLLINS B1300

SureLoad Kit Price	**P 6,800**
P250 load for 24 months	- 6,000
SureLoad Handset Cost	P 800
Save 81% on handset cost	



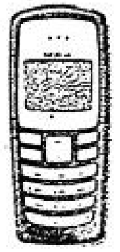
SONY ERICSSON T100

SureLoad Kit Price	**P 7,000**
P250 load for 24 months	- 6,000
SureLoad Handset Cost	P 1,000
Save 78% on handset cost	



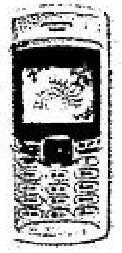
NOKIA 1100

SureLoad Kit Price	**P 8,200**
P250 load for 24 months	- 6,000
SureLoad Handset Cost	P 2,200
Save 64% on handset cost	



NOKIA 2100

SureLoad Kit Price	**P 8,600**
P250 load for 24 months	- 6,000
SureLoad Handset Cost	P 2,600
Save 57% on handset cost	



SONY ERICSSON T230

SureLoad Kit Price	**P 9,900**
P250 load for 24 months	- 6,000
SureLoad Handset Cost	P 3,900
Save 48% on handset cost	

sun
CELLULAR
PREPAID

Grab 'em at the Sun Shops: MAKATI Park Square One, 1st Flr. **MANDALUYONG** SM Megamall, 4th Flr., Cyberzone; Shangri-La Plaza Mall, 1st Flr. **MANILA** Robinsons Manila, 1st Flr.; SM Manila, 4th Flr.; SM Sta. Mesa, 3rd Flr. **MINDANAO** SM Davao, 3rd Flr.; Robinsons Cagayan de Oro, 2nd Flr., Big R **NORTH LUZON** Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, 1st Flr., Robinsons Gate **PASIG/RIZAL** Robinsons Metro East, 1st Flr.; Robinsons Cainta, 1st Flr. **QUEZON CITY** Robinsons Galleria, 4th Flr.; SM North Edsa, Carpark Building; SM Fairview, 2nd Flr. **PARAÑAQUE/ALABANG/LAS PIÑAS** SM Bicutan, 2nd Flr., Bldg. B; SM Southmall, 2nd Flr.; Filinvest Festival Mall, 4th Flr. **SOUTH LUZON** Robinsons Sta. Rosa, 1st Flr.; Robinsons Imus, 1st Flr.; Robinsons Dasmariñas, 2nd Flr.; Robinsons Lipa, 1st Flr.; SM Bacoor, 3rd Flr. **VISAYAS** Robinsons Iloilo, 1st Flr.; Robinsons Cebu, 2nd Flr.; Robinsons Bacolod, 2nd Flr.; SM Cebu, 3rd Flr. **Also available at these outlets:** Comworks • Mega Cellular • Quick.com • Spacecom • E Phone • ADI Telecom • Robinsons Choice • Wellcom Telecom Supermarket • Semicon retail outlets: For more details, contact our hotline: 395-8000 or visit our website: **www.suncellular.com.ph**

2bU! to be young • to be you • to be young • to be you! • To be you!
LIFESTYLE
For feedback, text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160 or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

SMOOTH & SEXY.
HAIR-FREE
BIKINI LINES.
Call the Facial Care Centre for LaserLight
243 8138

Leaders-in-training

FORMER president Cory Aquino delivers the keynote address.

Youthful idealism finds a mentor in the Young Leaders Congress

By Joshua Liao
2bU! Correspondent

AT FIRST glance, the place looked almost like a juvenile prison camp—dozens of young people seated and eating breakfast, all of them wearing orange jackets with blue letters printed on the back.

But it was no prison camp. It was the 6th Ayala Young Leaders Congress (AYLC), and the people in orange jackets are 75 student leaders from all over the country who had gathered in scenic Tagaytay City for the three-day live-in conference.

The AYLC is an annual event started in 1998 by the Ayala Group of Companies. The congress brings together the country's best student leaders and puts them through discussions and activities that help develop their leadership skills.

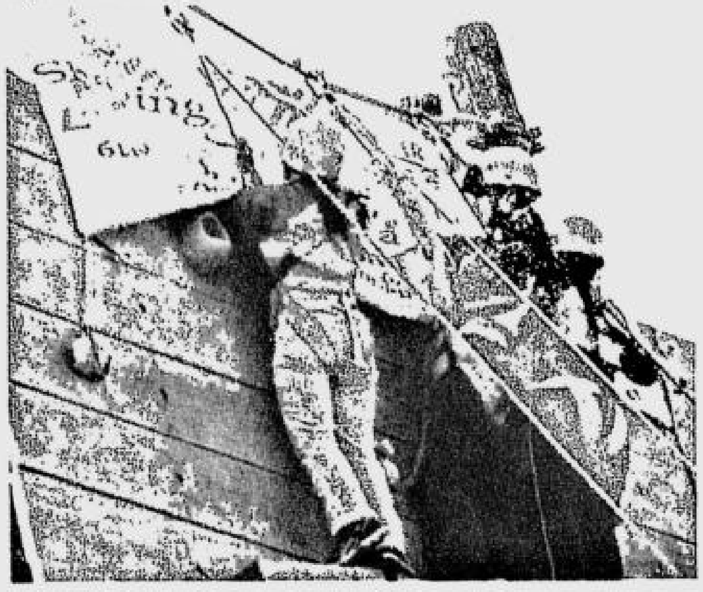
The theme for this year's congress was "Leadership for Nation-Building," which, considering the national situation, was indeed a timely theme.

Former president Cory Aquino delivered the keynote address, and the list of guest speakers and facilitators contained the names of heavyweights in various fields: Sheila Coronel, Winnie Monsod, Randy David, Lito Camacho, Danny Javier, Maria Ressa, Francis Pangilinan, Tina Monzon-Palma and many others.

After each session, the delegates were given the chance to ask, or, as a female delegate from the Philippine Military Academy put it, "shoot" questions. They then had group discussions to share their thoughts and experiences, and have a bit of healthy debate.

The delegates also participated in some grueling physical activities. They scaled walls and crawled through obstacles. The one activity that the participants could not stop talking about was the Leap of Faith, where they had to climb up a tall pole, do the "Otso-otso," and then leap and reach for a rope that would take them back down.

Besides being a lot of fun, these activities were supposed to teach the participants cooperation, confidence and teamwork.



PARTICIPANTS scale a wall.

YOUNG leaders share their thoughts and experiences in small groups.

Tough screening

How did these 75 students get the chance to be part of the AYLC?

As Sol Delantar and Simon Mossesgeld, two of the event's organizers, explained it, Ched-accredited schools are asked to nominate a maximum of 10 outstanding third-year students every year. The organizers would usually get 400 to 600 nominees.

All nominees must first go through a "cold screening," where a preprogrammed machine assigns a score for each position or award that a nominee has.

The 250 nominees with the highest scores then move on to a "paper screening." Each one

LEADERS-IN-TRAINING/ E3

onstage 2nyt
Cowboy Grill
LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644 — SERSIDE ZEST — OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
MABINI ☎ 525.1474 — MIXED-UP M PEOPLE/PUZZLES — OPEN FROM 6PM TO 6AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143 — KOOLJACKS FAT 16 — OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757 — EMMANUELLE MEN OPPOSE — OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268 — E-MAGE AFTER 8 — OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
TIA MARIA'S
REMEDIOS ☎ 522 0429 — TIA MARIA'S CROSSTOWN KENDI — NO ENTRANCE FEE
MARCH 24 WEDNESDAY

Discover An Exciting WORLD
WCT Kiddie Academy
Your child deserves what we have to offer
A conducive home environment, harmonious exposures with other kids, specialized teachers, excellent training
FREE LIFETIME COACHING • FREE MODERN GRAMMAR COURSE TO PARENTS
Summer Classes Start Apr. 12, 13, 17, May 17
(From 3 to 15 years old) Speech, Theater Arts, Grammar, English Fluency, Reading & Comprehension, Character Bldg & Personality Development)
MW or TTH or Sat 9-12 NN or 1-4 PM or Fri 8-12 NN
Corporate Training & Private Tutoring are available
Present & Pre-summer classes are also available
WCT Wilma Cruz-Tapalla
ACADEME OF SPEECH AND PERSONALITY
SINCE 1967
LEGARDA, SAMPALOC 2600 Rizal Hall, Arellano University 736-7656 • 736-7657 • 736-7644
GREENHILLS 55 Annapolis c/o Sampaloc
ORTIGAS CENTER c/o Sampaloc
SPEECH FOR SUCCESS venue: Holiday Inn, Galleria Manila date: April 25, Sunday 9-12nn
www.wctacademe.com

ADAMSANDLER
DREWBARRYMORE
ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK
50 FIRST DATES

features classic '80s Love Songs newly recorded by
Wycleaf Jean (feat. Eve) - "Your Love" (l.o.v.e reggae mix), Seal (feat. Mikey Dread) - "Lips Like Sugar"
311- "Love Song", Jason Mraz - "I Melt With You", Wayne Wonder - "Hold Me Now", Ziggy Marley - "Drive"
Mark McGrath - "Ghost In You" and more!

soundtrack in stores now from WARNER MUSIC PHILIPPINES

all i want is in MYGLOBE moviemania

Let these tones take you back to special memories of your first date.

50 FIRST DATE TONES

TITLE	RINGTONE	POLYTONE	LYRICS
Hold Me Now	N121	T121	LY121
Your Love (L.O.V.E.Reggae Mix)	N122	T122	LY122
Love Song	N123	T123	LY123
Lips Like Sugar	N124	T124	LY124
Drive	N125	T125	LY125
Slave To Love	N126	T126	LY126
Every Breath You Take	N127	T127	LY127
Ghost In You	N128	T128	LY128
Friday I'm In Love	N129	T129	LY129
Breakfast In Bed	N130	T130	LY130
I Melt With You	N131	T131	LY131
Forget Lucy	N132	T132	LY132

To download, text the keyword to 2949. Ex: text N121 to 2949
For polytones, you can also go to the myGlobe WAP site and under "What's New" click on "50 First Dates ."

Get a chance to win P1 million* on June 2, 2004 when you subscribe to the Tone of the Week!

Text ON1 (ringtones) or ON2 (polytones) to 2949.

Plus, 50 CDs of the 50 FIRST DATES Soundtrack will be given away in the raffle draw!

For more tones, icons, text cards, and wallpaper, text MC to 2949.

Rates per download:
ringtone, P15; polytone, P20

To get a free list of compatible phones, text PHONES to 2375.

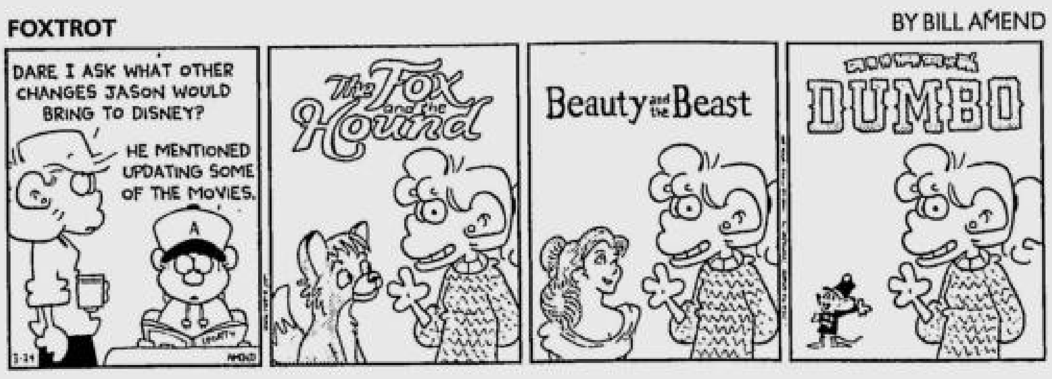
To ensure successful MMS/Polytone download, activate your GPRS and MMS now!
1. For a list of compatible MMS & GPRS handsets, send NOKIA, ERICSSON or SAMSUNG (depending on your handset model) to 2365. Regular text messaging charges apply.
2. Text GO <handset model> to 2951 to get your phone's settings. Ex. GO N3650. For Nokia 6220, 6600 and 6820, text GO <handset model>,,1234 to 2951. Make sure to type in the two commas before the 1234 PIN.
3. Enter 1234 when asked for PIN to save the settings.
4. Send an MMS message for only P5.00 to activate the service.
Now you can send MMS to other mobile networks.

making great things possible for her
Globe HANDYPHONE

* 20% tax will be shouldered by the winner. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1028, Series of 2004

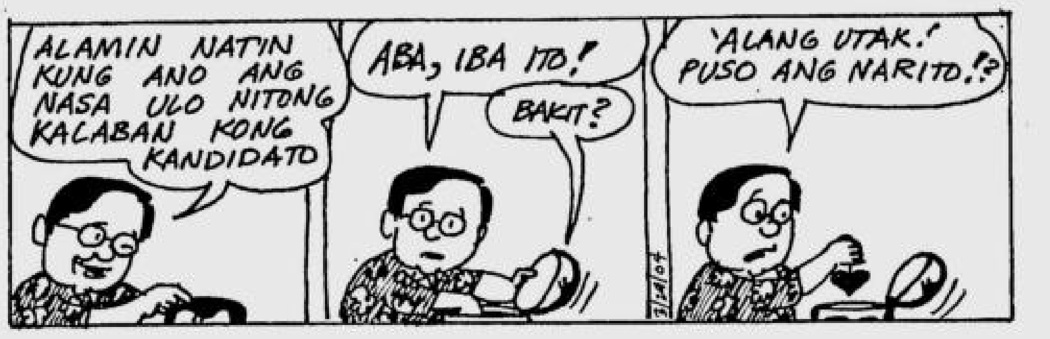
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


DARE I ASK WHAT OTHER CHANGES JASON WOULD BRING TO DISNEY?
HE MENTIONED UPDATING SOME OF THE MOVIES.
The Fox and the Hound
Beauty and the Beast
DUMBO

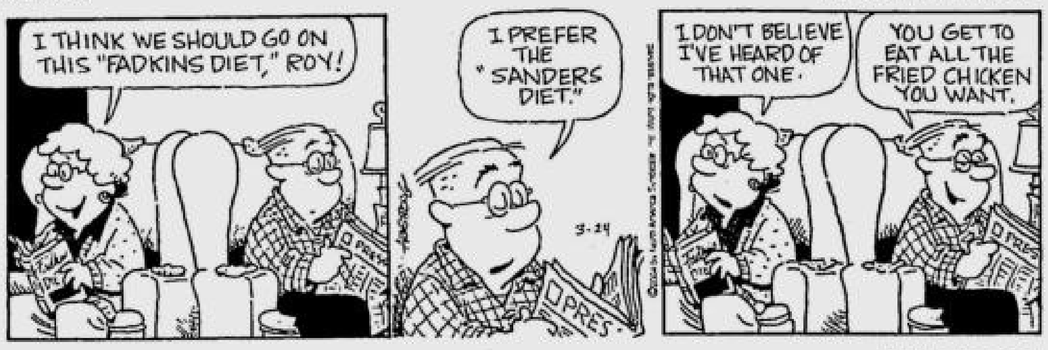
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ALAMIN NATIN KUNG ANO ANG NASA ULO NITONG KALABAN KONG KANDIDATO
ABA, IBA ITO!
BAKIT?
'ALANG UTAK! PUSO ANG NARITO!?

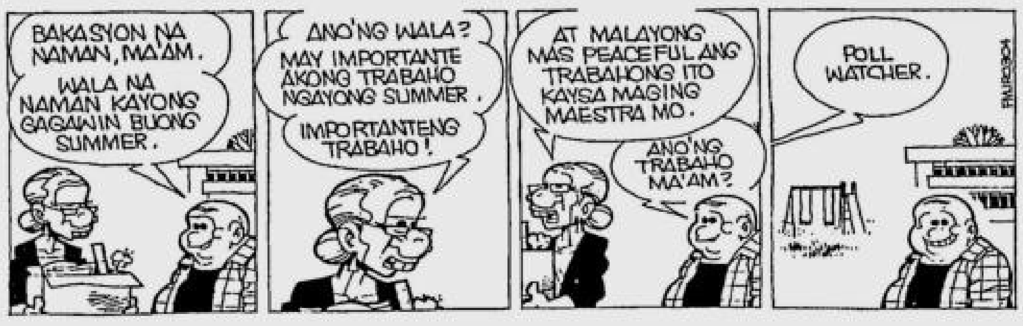
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I THINK WE SHOULD GO ON THIS "FADKINS DIET," ROY!
I PREFER THE "SANDERS DIET."
I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE HEARD OF THAT ONE.
YOU GET TO EAT ALL THE FRIED CHICKEN YOU WANT.
3-24

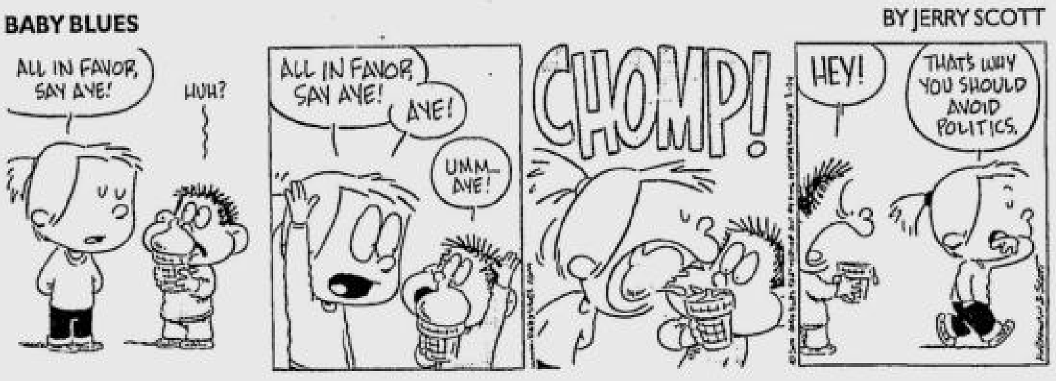
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKASYON NA NAMAN, MA'AM.
WALA NA NAMAN KAYONG GAGAWIN BUONG SUMMER.
ANO'NG WALA? MAY IMPORTANTE AKONG TRABAHO NGAYONG SUMMER.
IMPORTANTENG TRABAHO!
AT MALAYONG MAS PEACEFUL ANG TRABAHONG ITO KAYSA MAGING MAESTRA MO.
ANO'NG TRABAHO MA'AM?
POLL WATCHER.

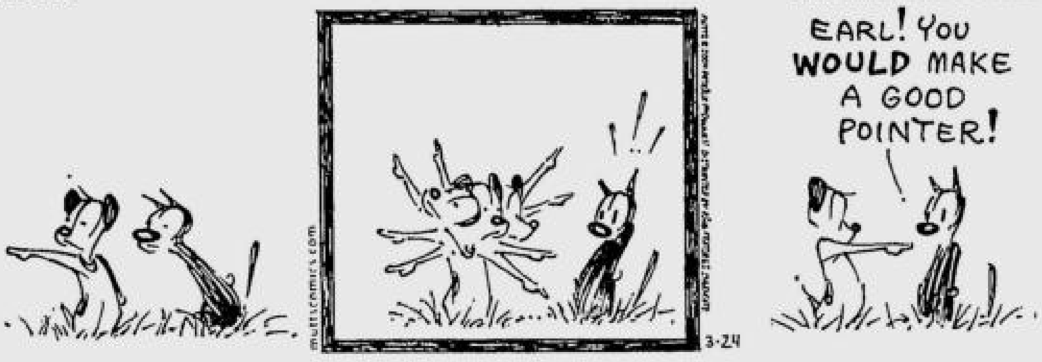
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ALL IN FAVOR, SAY AYE!
HUH?
ALL IN FAVOR, SAY AYE!
AYE!
UMM... AYE!
CHOMP!
HEY!
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD AVOID POLITICS.

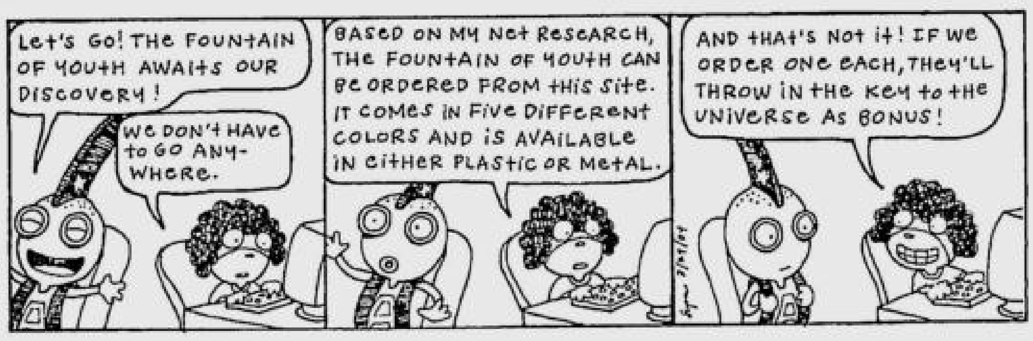
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


muttscomics.com
3-24
EARL! YOU WOULD MAKE A GOOD POINTER!

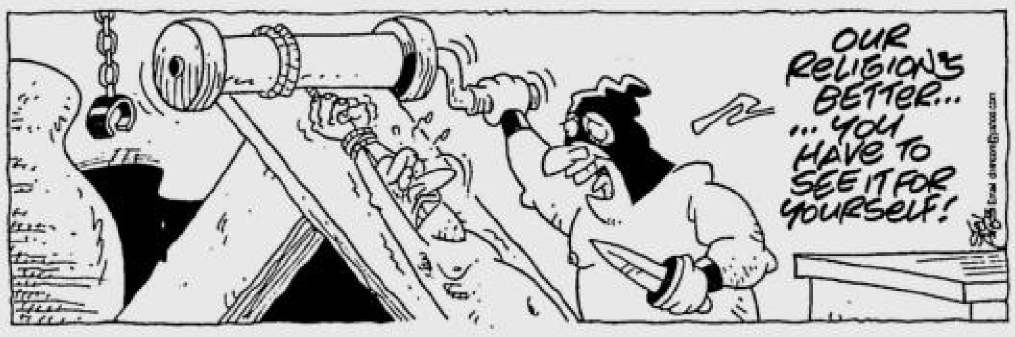
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


LET'S GO! THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH AWAITS OUR DISCOVERY!
WE DON'T HAVE TO GO ANYWHERE.
BASED ON MY NET RESEARCH, THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH CAN BE ORDERED FROM THIS SITE. IT COMES IN FIVE DIFFERENT COLORS AND IS AVAILABLE IN EITHER PLASTIC OR METAL.
AND THAT'S NOT IT! IF WE ORDER ONE EACH, THEY'LL THROW IN THE KEY TO THE UNIVERSE AS BONUS!

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


OUR RELIGION'S BETTER... ...YOU HAVE TO SEE IT FOR YOURSELF!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Above all, you are spontaneous. You have a childlike enthusiasm for life. You are modest; you believe that actions speak louder than words. People find you affectionate and positive. You love hobbies and daring adventures. You always take the straightest path to any situation. This year focuses on social activities and relationships. Enjoy!

Birthdate of: Star Jones, TV personality; Alyson Hannigan, actress; Steve McQueen, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You are highly opinionated today. You have strong feelings about religious, political or philosophical matters. Refrain from trying to make others agree with your point of view.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your ability to research practically anything is fabulous today! You will leave no stone unturned in your search for the truth. (You're like a dog with a bone.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Resist the urge to tell others how to improve themselves today. They will not welcome your advice. Alternatively, don't let others try to make you over, either!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): If you have to talk to your boss or any other influential person, you'll be extremely convincing today when presenting your case. (Convincing is good; threatening is not.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have a strong desire to get to the bottom of things today. You want to know the truth about something. Unfortunately, there are no simple answers to some burning questions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might unearth secrets about someone's financial situation. In fact, this could relate to your partner's wealth or assets, or those of a close friend. Naturally, you'll be discreet.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Discussions with partners will be revealing, intense and possibly emotional today. Somebody might confess something. Somebody might discover something. (Things are heating up!)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your concentration at work today is wonderful! You're able to set your mind to any task for long periods of time. Use this to your advantage, and get stuff done.

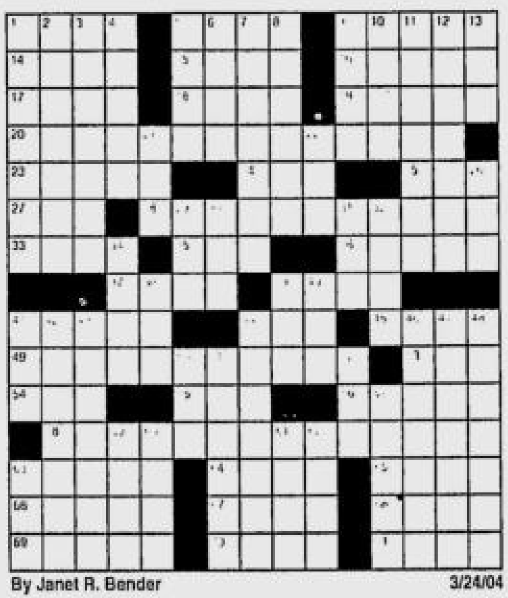
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might have an opportunity to instruct children or young minds today. If so, you have definite ideas you want to convey. Nevertheless, remember: Criticism does much, but encouragement does more.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Family secrets might be an issue today. Domestic discussions will definitely be candid and revealing. Somebody wants to get to the truth of something. Be kind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You feel a bit obsessed about something today. You can't get an idea out of your mind. Why not try to direct this pointed focus into your work?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is the perfect day to ask what really matters in life. Is it money, fame, success? The purpose of life is to be happy. What does it take to make you happy?

DAILY CROSSWORD


By Janet R. Bender
Somerset, PA
3/24/04

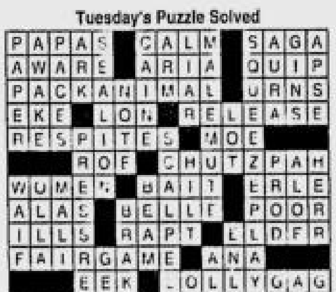
ACROSS

1 Hill crest
5 Medieval toiler
9 Out of kilter
14 Stanton film, "__ Man"
15 Spoken
16 Vacation vessel
17 Latin & others
18 Laertes or Ophelia, e.g.
19 Mongolian range
20 Union mutinies
23 U.S. retirement act
24 Sleeve card
25 Divested
27 Stimpy's pal
28 Mineral ore of uranium
33 Belgian battle site
35 Nat. with Seoul
36 Desert stops
37 Barbara or Sir Anthony
39 Greek letters
41 Teatime treat
44 __-jongg
45 Labels
49 Payload's heaviness
53 Packed-house letters
54 Shift dirt
55 TV add-on
56 Like some kitchens
58 Fancy dress event
63 Religious principle
64 Alone
65 Digestive juice
66 Disney's mermaid
67 Press
68 Mined products
69 Harebrained
70 Mach-2 breakers
71 Hardy lass

DOWN

1 Beer plant
2 Goes to bed
3 Like a translucent gemstone
4 Chalk hills along the Humber
5 Soft drink
6 Part of Q.E.D.
7 Pillage
8 Chase movie
9 Jai __
10 Dairy product
11 Practical trainees
12 City near Fort Ord
13 __ Lanka
21 Price ceiling
22 CSA soldier
26 Some French
29 Choler
30 Heavy weight
31 Old card game
32 "__ of Eden"
34 Las Vegas rival
38 Lawn moisture
39 Old cloth
40 LBJ's VP
41 Universal meas.
42 Barth novel
43 Naturally grown
44 Reflects
46 "Top Hat" star
47 Car front decorations
48 Like a family of girls
50 Morgantown sch.
51 Successful transplantation
52 Driving spot
57 Superior of a monastery
59 Search for
60 4 times per yr.
61 Scads
62 Puts on
63 Game of marbles

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

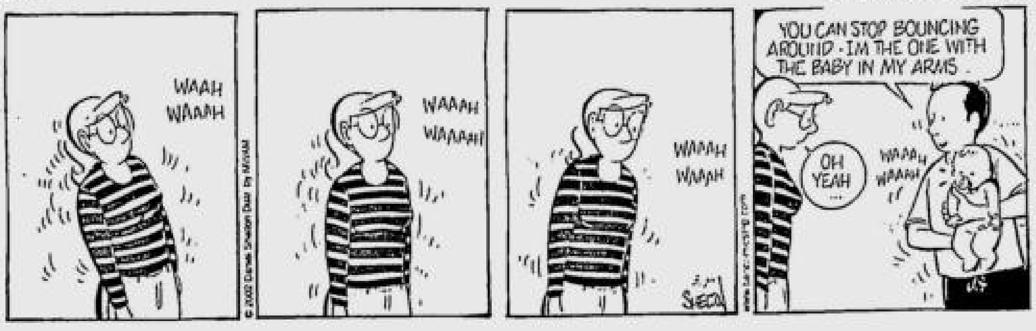


P	A	P	A	S	■	C	A	L	M	■	S	A	G	A
A	W	A	R	E	■	A	R	I	A	■	Q	U	I	P
P	A	C	K	A	N	I	M	A	L	■	U	R	N	S
E	K	E	■	L	O	N	■	R	E	L	E	A	S	E
R	E	S	P	I	T	E	S	■	M	O	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	O	E	■	C	H	U	T	Z	P	A	H
W	O	M	E	N	■	B	A	I	T	■	E	R	L	E
A	L	A	S	■	B	E	L	L	E	■	P	O	O	R
I	L	L	S	■	R	A	P	T	■	E	L	D	E	R
F	A	I	R	G	A	M	E	■	A	N	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	E	K	■	L	O	L	L	Y	G	A	G
C	H	A	P	T	E	R	■	L	E	I	■	A	B	E
H	A	L	O	■	J	A	M	S	E	S	S	I	O	N
A	V	E	R	■	O	K	I	E	■	T	I	L	D	E
T	E	X	T	■	B	E	A	N	■	S	T	Y	E	S

(C)2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved
3/24/04

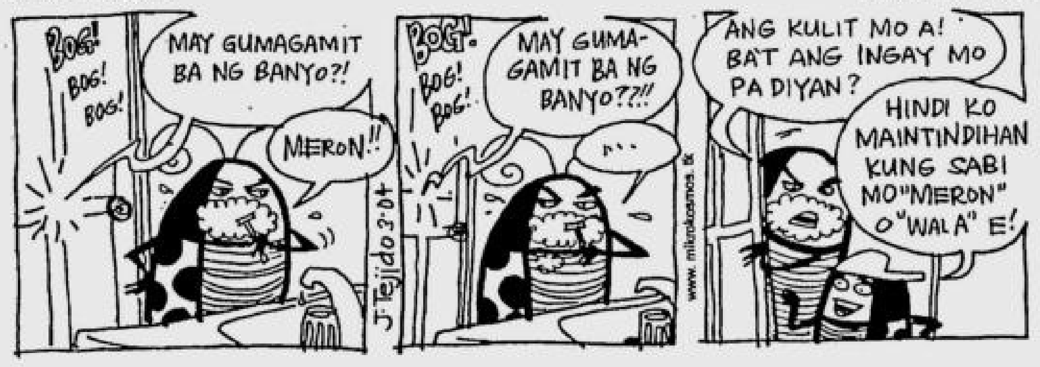
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WAAH WAAAH
WAAAH WAAAAH!
WAAAH WAAAH
YOU CAN STOP BOUNCING AROUND - I'M THE ONE WITH THE BABY IN MY ARMS.
OH YEAH ...
WAAAH WAAAH

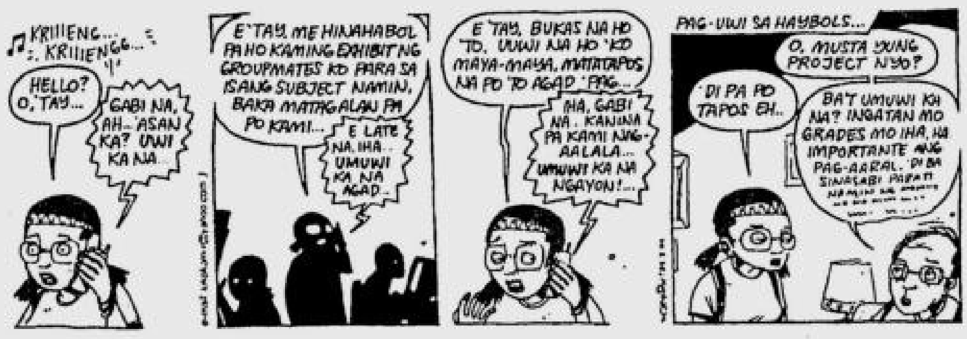
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BOG! BOG! BOG!
MAY GUMAGAMIT BA NG BANYO?!
MERON!!
BOG! BOG! BOG!
MAY GUMAGAMIT BA NG BANYO??!!
...
ANG KULIT MO A! BA'T ANG INGAY MO PA DIYAN?
HINDI KO MAINTINDIHAN KUNG SABI MO "MERON" O "WALA" E!
J. Tejido 3-04
www.mikrokosmos.tk

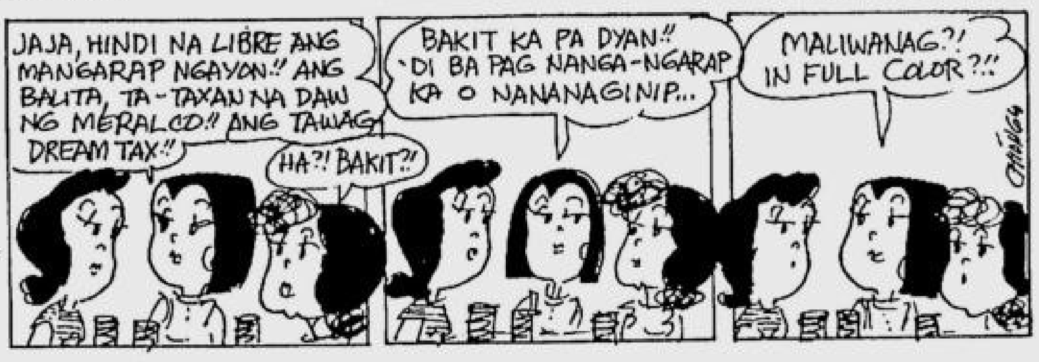
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KRIIIENG... KRIIIENGG...
HELLO? O, 'TAY...
GABI NA, AH... 'ASAN KA? UWI KA NA.
E 'TAY, ME HINAHABOL PA HO KAMING EXHIBIT NG GROUPMATES KO PARA SA ISANG SUBJECT NAMIN. BAKA MATAGALAN PA PO KAMI...
E LATE NA, IHA... UMUWI KA NA AGAD...
E 'TAY, BUKAS NA HO 'TO. UUWI NA HO 'KO MAYA-MAYA, MATATAPOS NA PO 'TO AGAD 'PAG...
IHA, GABI NA. KANINA PA KAMI NAG-AALALA... UMUWI KA NA NGAYON!...
PAG-UWI SA HAYBOLS...
O, MUSTA YUNG PROJECT NYO?
'DI PA PO TAPOS EH...
BA'T UMUWI KA NA? INGATAN MO GRADES MO IHA, HA IMPORTANTE ANG PAG-AARAL. 'DI BA SINASABI PARATI

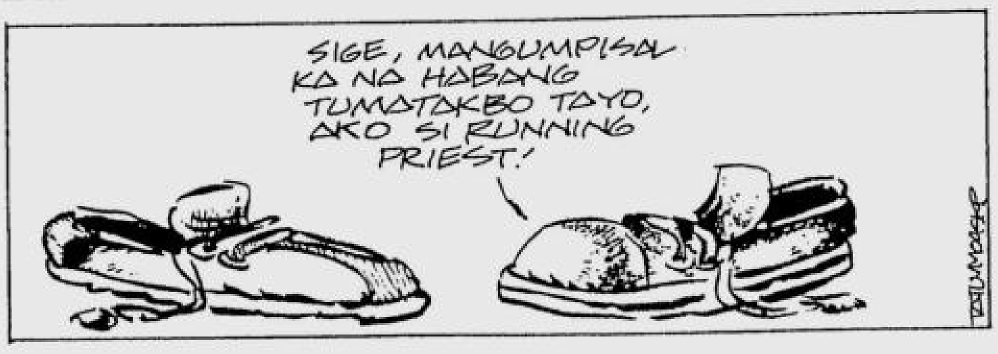
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, HINDI NA LIBRE ANG MANGARAP NGAYON!! ANG BALITA, TA-TAXAN NA DAW NG MERALCO!! ANG TAWAG DREAM TAX!!
HA?! BAKIT?!
BAKIT KA PA DYAN!! 'DI BA PAG NANGA-NGARAP KA O NANANAGINIP...
MALIWANAG?! IN FULL COLOR?!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SIGE, MANGUMPISAL KA NA HABANG TUMATAKBO TAYO, AKO SI RUNNING PRIEST!

MARIA
Andres Soriano

GUEST speakers Maria Ressa, Danny Javier and Francis Pangilinan

AYLC 2004 participants

Leaders-in-training

From page E1

is asked to write an essay. HR people from Ayala evaluate these essays, along with the CVs of nominees, to determine the most suitable candidates. After this round, the number is trimmed down to 150.

The survivors are then individually interviewed by top Ayala executives. In the end, 70 to 75 delegates are selected. The lucky ones get to go on an all-expense-paid trip to Tagaytay City, where they participate in the AYLC.

Clear appreciation

What is so special about this year's group of delegates? "This is the first time ever that we have more males than females," said Delantar. "There was a year when the ratio was 1:2."

"If you look at the questions they were asking, it's a group that has a very clear appreciation of what's happening around them. They are highly intelligent," Mossesgeld added.

Considering the tough selection process that the selected students went through, it is hardly surprising that this group is considered the cream of the crop of the country's college population.

Only time will tell if this group of young people will become the kind of leaders they are expected to be. But, given the idealism and enthusiasm they showed during the congress, even the most hardened cynic will have to admit that, yes, there may be hope for this country after all.

Young movers: 3 delegates speak

WHAT have you learned about leadership, and how will you apply it in real life?

Lady Hanifah R. Mindalano, 18, AB English, Mindanao State University

To be a leader, you have to lead people without prejudice regarding their cultural, religious, or tribal affiliations, because if you can't connect these people, then there's no way you can actually build a nation.

When I was in first year college, I promised my dad that I would just concentrate on my academics. But then, after joining the university paper, I learned about the political and social issues in our university. So I started acting on those issues.

I have also realized that your responsibility as a student and as a young person is not limited to the four corners of your classroom. So you have to go out there. Don't just observe; you have to act.

I want to start with the basic, so I'm specifically focused on the situation where I am in. I've launched, with the help of my co-officers in the student council, focus group discussions about the situation we have in Mindanao. There is this air of divisiveness between the Muslims and the non-Muslims. So, I would want to let my fellow Muslims be aware of the current issues that we're in.

We have this sort of prejudice that when we say Filipino, it means the Christians, not the Muslims, because we regard Muslims as Moros. I would like to change that. I would like them to be more aware. I have all the tools I need, and it will just depend on how I use that ammunition in the battlefield of ideas.

Rainier A. Bahoyan, 20, AB Mass Communications, Silliman University

Since high school, I have always believed in the principle of servant leadership. Joining the AYLC has reaffirmed my stand.

Leaders should not just be placed on a pedestal or just spearhead activities. They should somehow be equal with the members. We should work for a common cause. All of us come from different backgrounds, from different sectors of society, but we are all here for a certain goal, a certain mission.

Before coming to the congress, I had thought that I was carrying a big responsibility on my shoulders. But when I arrived here, I realized that all of us were here for the same mission, and we were pooling our resources for the common good.

The AYLC has been a catalyst for all my aspirations; it has opened my mind to doing a lot of things for the majority. I'm spearheading the student council of MassCom, and I have initiated some projects which will uplift not just students of MassCom, but the Dumaguete City community as well.

We have organized some drugs symposia, seminars on poverty, and education campaigns. We have also launched the Ten Outstanding Students of Dumaguete City to give recognition to our city's top young people.

Marx Luther R. Rosario, 22, Army, Philippine Military Academy

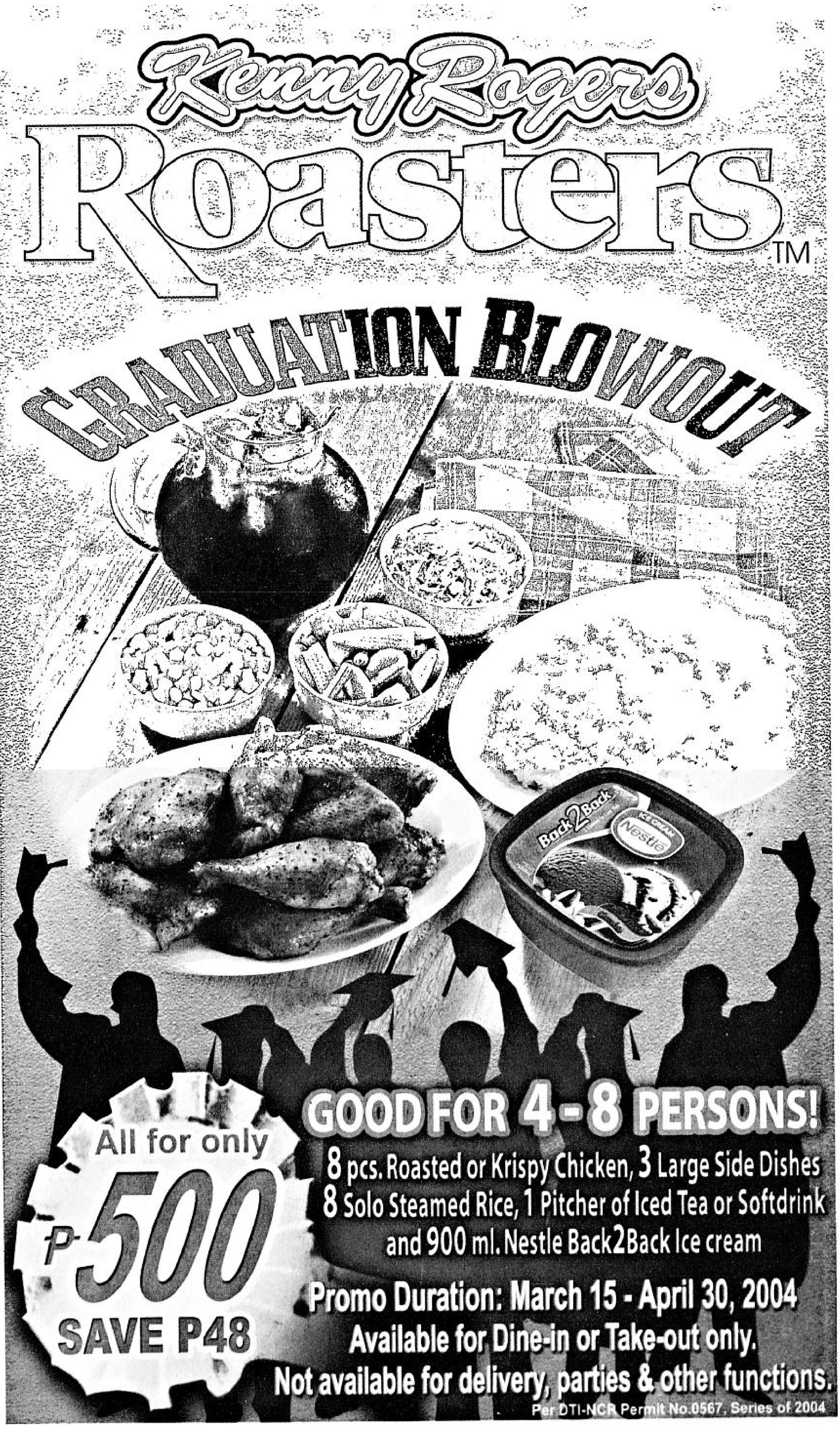
I have learned that leadership is a complicated process, and it takes time to learn. You cannot just learn it overnight. The participants coming from different places have different styles of leadership, and they have learned to adapt. We may have different affiliations, but we have the same goal, and that is to help bring the country to success.

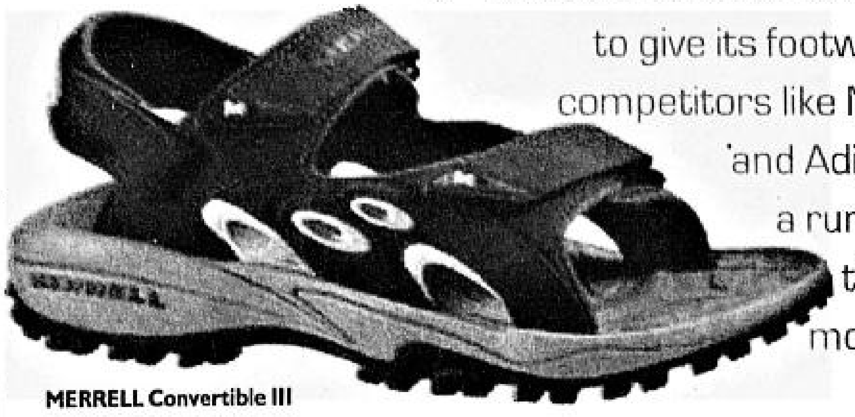
We may have come to a point where we no longer believe that young people are the hope of the fatherland. But this should be the time to believe that we are the realization of that hope.

I came here with six other cadets from the Philippine Military Academy. Back in the Academy, we thought that we're the only ones concerned about propelling the country to success. However, I have realized here that we are not alone in our quest.

A good leader must have good vision. This vision must be transformed into a mission. And this mission must be guided by certain principles such as individuality, belief in your comrades, and courage.

The military has been perceived as a source of problems in our society, so when we go back to the PMA, we will apply what we have learned here to influence our underclassmen and classmates. In the future, when we go out into the field, we will be leaders. We will no longer be known as mutineers.


Kenny Rogers Roasters™
GRADUATION BLOWOUT
All for only P500
SAVE P48
GOOD FOR 4 - 8 PERSONS!
8 pcs. Roasted or Krispy Chicken, 3 Large Side Dishes
8 Solo Steamed Rice, 1 Pitcher of Iced Tea or Softdrink
and 900 ml. Nestle Back2Back Ice cream
Promo Duration: March 15 - April 30, 2004
Available for Dine-in or Take-out only.
Not available for delivery, parties & other functions.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0567, Series of 2004


MERRELL Convertible III

Merrell has what it takes to give its footwear competitors like Nike and Adidas a run for their money

These sandals are made for heavy-duty stuff

By Dexter R. Matilla
2bU! Correspondent

I LOVE my feet.

It has taken me to so many places and it lets me do the things I want.

This is the reason I make sure I only wear the most comfortable shoes whenever I'm on the go. And for me, comfortable means wearing the latest Nike or Adidas shoe. Never sandals.

I never did take a liking to sandals. The prices alone seem too expensive for sandal. Even the Nike and Adidas sandals, I never bought them. I'd rather use my money on the shoes. I have always been a firm believer that sandals can never compare to shoes when it comes to comfort.

How wrong I was, however, when I first tried on Merrell sandals. But before I give my thoughts on the product, let me share how I first learned about Merrell.

I have been familiar with the brand ever since I covered the Urban Jungle Adventure Race in Baguio two years ago. There, the participants raced all over the area and did other stuff such as rappelling and running.

And one thing I noticed about the competitors was that their choice of footwear was Merrell sandals. I was thinking, why Merrell? I mean, if the sandals could take the beating the wearers were giving them, then that said a lot about their durability, right?

Fast-forward to today, and guess what my first sandals are? The Convertible III from Merrell. Honestly, the sandals felt great right out of the box. It had comfort written all over it.

The footbed felt like semi-hardened cotton whenever I walked (sorry, I couldn't think of any other description). A little research revealed to me that the sandals have a Microban Antibacterial footbed, which I think helps prevent the growth of bacteria that gives footwear its stinky smell.

Likewise, the sandals follow the form of my feet, thanks to the 3D Contour Footbed design.

Added plus points for me are the straps. They don't burn into my feet's skin. Apparently, Merrell uses some kind of air cushion, something like the air sole on some Nike footwear, which lessens the pressure on the heels.

I was also surprised at how the sandals restrict side-to-side or front to back movements—a big protection factor. The straps make sure that my feet are held in place, lessening the possibility of ankle sprain.

Lastly, the sandals' outsoles are great. See, when everything else checks out with a shoe I plan on buying, I also check the outsole to make sure slipping would not be an issue.

I always love to run, especially when I'm late for something. I run in school halls, malls, stairs, etc. And since floors tend to get slippery, I always have to watch my step.

Thankfully, the Convertible III allows me total security. The outsole's intricate pattern makes sure that I don't slip.

Overall, the Convertible III has made me a believer in Merrell's sandals. I can't say the same about its casual shoes since I haven't tried them on yet, but I really love the design of some.

And being a Nike/Adidas guy, I have to say that Merrell has what it takes to give its footwear competitors a run for their money. The technology used in Merrell products is unique and well thought of.

Are your feet ready to be pampered?

APPARENTLY, there are a lot of tired feet out there. We were so overwhelmed by your response we started wishing we had more treatments to give away.

These three readers will receive Bliss Hands and Feet Treatments from Nail Spa:

Karen Antonette Amata, 27, says, even though she wants to be pampered, she's going to give the certificate to her mom.

"Initially, this free foot spa was the answer to my prayers. However, if my feet need pampering, my mom's need it more... She wakes up early to drive all the way to Manila from Pampanga and keeps a hectic schedule. She works from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and, if meetings (finish late), she leaves the office at 2 a.m... then she has to be an active mom to my two teenaged brothers. She is their driving instructor, mall companion, cheerleader *sa* games... the list goes on. This will be my birthday gift to her."

Victoria Penaflor, 28, thinks the treatment might help cure her broken heart.

"I deserve to be treated to a free hand/foot spa 'cause my boyfriend of eight years just left me and I feel so unloved and so uncared for right now. I believe the spa will truly lift my sagging heart and spirit. I know it won't help my love life but, at least, it will help make me feel good."

Jaybee V. Balbido, 25, who spends her days running around in a hospital, deserves some moments of bliss.

"8 a.m. My feet are dead. I can't feel anything below my knee. When will this need to stand stop? Oh yeah, rounds aren't over.

"10 a.m. My feet are killing me, but I have to run to a lab.

"11 a.m. Have to find a wheelchair, patient due for ultrasound now. Not a wheelchair? Stretcher? The patient is 250 pounds? Um, ok, like the ultrasound isn't in the next building...

"8 p.m. Dinner. Oh yeah, monitor the patients. Wait, my leg is asleep, or did it fall off while I was running to a lab?"

These two readers will receive Pamper Hands and Feet Treatments from Nail Spa:

Anna Katrina L. Hernandez's feet did the talking for her. Yeah, we think they deserve a treat.

"When you get up every morning, we are the first to leave the warmth of the bed and (step into) the cold, hard reality that is the floor... Later on, you rush up a long flight of stairs to the MRT, running desperately to catch the next train... the fourth train has enough room to squeeze into. You find yourself being pushed into the train by the mob of commuters. And we (are) stepped on by the mob. You grimace as you feel the heel of another woman's shoe dig into one of us... Finally you reach the office, a chance for us to rest... Then your boss suddenly calls you and asks you to make a presentation to the board. You (realize) the materials you need are in the other building... After a hard day's work, all you can think about is a workout to relieve the stress. The hour and a half in taebo class help relieve the stress, but what about us? After what we've been through, do you have to punish us with all this kicking, jumping around and whatnot? We need a break. A foot spa would be nice."

Nicca Berbano, 20, listed the reasons we should choose her. She made us laugh and it worked.

"They've been bruised, scratched, pinched, stepped on, run over and, at one time, trapped in three-inch heels for hours on end.

"I've stopped biting my toenails, and I need a reward.

"When we were younger, my older sister would read aloud these lines from George Macdonald's 'The Princess and the Goblin,' which at that time was her favorite book: 'Go to bed, goblin do/Help the queen take off her shoe/If you do, you will disclose/ A horrid set of sprouting toes!' After which she'd pause, throw me a glance, and snicker.

"I'm tired of watching my younger brother burst into laughter as he points at my feet and shrieks *'Luya!'* He thinks my feet are misshapen like ginger."

THESE readers will become part of Nail Spa's exclusive VIP List and will be entitled to a 10-percent discount:

Odette Malonzo
Warn Tan
Ysabel C. Zuñiga
Iris Tan
Maria Elena Soltes
Clarisse Hernandez
1Lt Ma. Grace Cecille R. Cajote
Berlin Maynigo
Maniel Grace O'Yek
Steve Allen Tycangco
Ma. Cecilia Li
Niña Ana H. Espiritu
Elaine Verano
Anna Karoleen Lam
Jacielyn Villanueva

THESE readers will receive anklets from Ron Maclang's jewelry line:

Katrina de Dios
Sharlene Batin
Mae Anne Añonuevo-Cruz
Pia Charina Pascual

Winners may claim their prizes at the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER building, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, on Mondays, 3 p.m. onwards. Please look for Pam or Ruth.

SMART Buddy Pre-paid downloads zed sure hits

TOP 10 OPM

TOP 10 POP

1	Maybe	Enrique Iglesias	TONE MAYBE
2	Toxic	Britney Spears	TONE TOXIC
3	Fallen	Sarah McLachlan	TONE FALLEN1
4	I Promise I Will	Stacie Orrico	TONE IPROMISE
5	I'll Be	Edwin McCain	TONE IBE
6	Addicted	Enrique Iglesias	TONE ADDICTED
7	Something's Missing	John Mayer	TONE SMISSING
8	Powerless	Nelly Furtado	TONE POWERLESS
9	Asereje	Las Ketchup	TONE ASEREJE
10	The Voice Within	Christina Aguilera	TONE VOICEW

TOP 10 ROCK

1	Happy	Rolling Stones	TONE HAPPY
2	Unwell	Matchbox 20	TONE UNWELL
3	Have It All Ver. 2	Foo Fighters	TONE HAVIT2
4	This Love	Maroon 5	TONE THISLOVE
5	Iris	Goo Goo Dolls	TONE IRIS
6	Numb	Linkin Park	TONE NUMB
7	You Give Love A Bad Name	Bon Jovi	TONE BADNAME
8	The Young And The Hopeless	Good Charlotte	TONE YOUNGAND
9	Another One Bites The Dust	Queen	TONE ANOBITES
10	All Apologies	Nirvana	TONE ALLAPOLO

TOP 10 HIPHOP

1	Where Is The Love	Black Eyed Peas	TONE WERISLUV
2	Hey Ya	Outkast	TONE HEYYA
3	Ir U	Nelly	TONE IZU
4	Lose Yourself	Eminem	TONE LOSEYOUR
5	Thoia Thoing	R. Kelly	TONE THOIA
6	Milkshake	Kelis	TONE MILKSHAKE
7	Shake Ya Tailfeather	P. Diddy & Nelly	TONE TAILF
8	P.I.M.P.	50 Cent	TONE PIMP
9	Let's Get Retarded	Black Eyed Peas	TONE LETSGET
10	I Know What You Want	B. Rhymes & M. Carey	TONE IKNOWAT

TOP 20 logos

TOP 10 picture messages

How to download a logo, picture messages or ring tone:

LOGO JESUS8
1 Type in keyword. Ex. LOGO JESUS8, TONE OTSO OR PIC SUMRLUV

288
2 Send to 288.

Jesus ♥ U
3 Save upon receiving logo, ring tone or picture message.

www.smart.zed.com

To send a logo, tone or picture message to a friend, type **<keyword> <cell phone number>** and send to **288**. To send a logo, LOGO JESUS8 09181234567. To send a tone, TONE OTSO 09181234567. To send a picture message, PIC SUMRLUV 09181234567.

To download all these from your SMART Super SIM, simply go to the SMART Menu, select SMART zed and then select My Favorites. Just click on the service you wish to download. It's so easy! Logos, ring tones and picture messages are supported by selected Nokia handsets. **Also available to Talk 'N Text subscribers**
P15.00 for every successful download. Download now!

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, text us at 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Note: In order for you to identify which musical work the ring tone in question is based on, we have, in addition to the song title, referred an artist who has made the song well known. The artist in question has not participated in the production of the ring tone.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

We've got winners!

THE FOLLOWING Simple Plan fans will be taking home autographed copies of Simple Plan's debut album.

Caitanya Blay
Juan Paolo Soriano
Nina Margarita de Leon

These other three readers will be satisfying their sweet tooth, as each gets an autographed copy of Sugababe's latest album.

Adoracion R. Ceniza
Christopher Tesaluna
Joselito Omalay

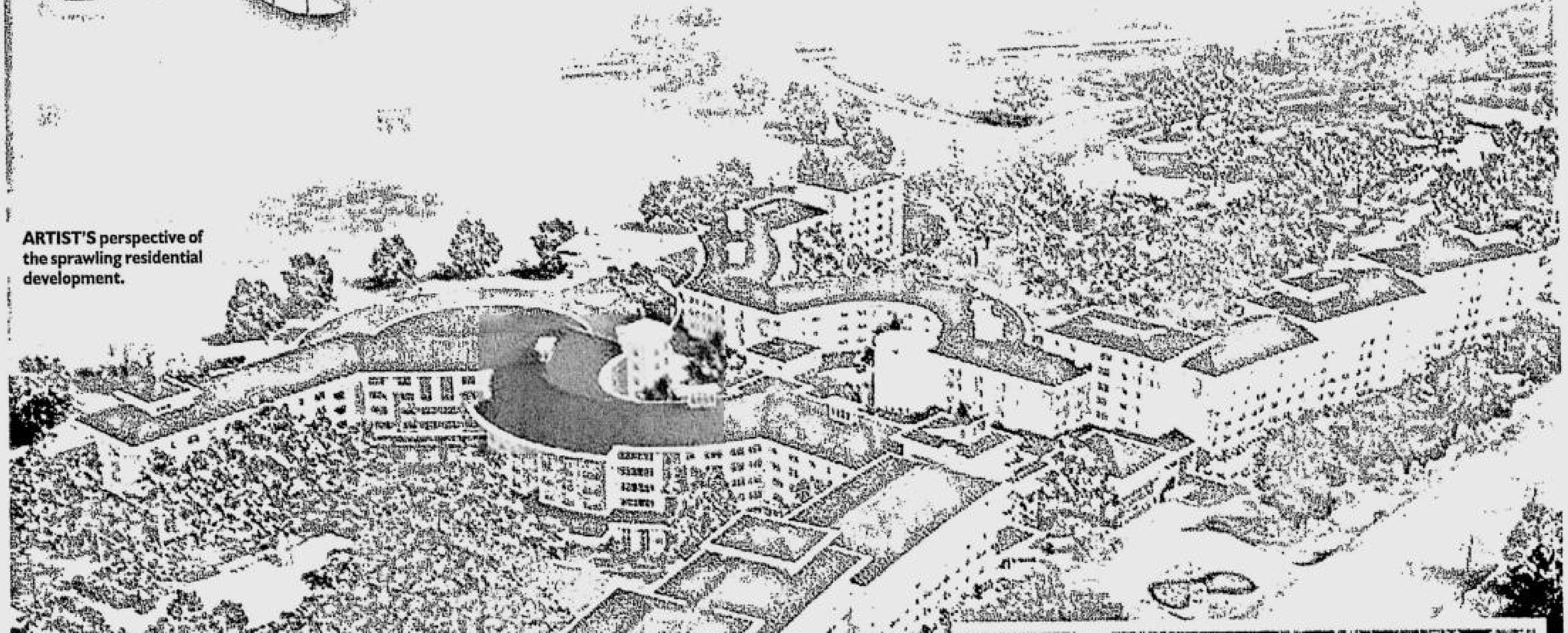
Claim your prizes on Mondays, 3 p.m. onwards at the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER building, Pasong Tamo cor. Chino Roces and Mascardo Sts., Makati City. Bring a proper ID and look for Ruth.

SUGABABES

Property Focus

Serendra
An AYALA Community

Now, you can have it all!



ARTIST'S perspective of the sprawling residential development.

THEY SAID it couldn't be done. It's just impossible to have the best of both worlds: a comfortable residence with lots of open space, trees and greens, parks and promenades; combined with the convenience offered by the proximity of the office, schools, supermarkets, malls and shops.

But there is nothing impossible to those who believe that life can be made better.

Real estate leader Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), together with Community Innovations, Inc. (CII), offer its newest and most exciting residential community: Serendra. Entering into a joint-development agreement with the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), ALI sets out to unveil yet another landmark project in the metro.

"Our commitment to provide well-designed, superior quality homes to a greater number of Filipinos is fully embodied in Serendra," says ALI chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala." It is a testament to our proven ability to come up with distinct, well-planned and responsive products to meet the growing demand in specific end-user markets."

Ayala Land's mindset has always been to look for ways to enrich people's lives. It aims for innovation, not for innovation's sake, but for improving lifestyles. Serendra is the primary residential project of ALI for 2004, and very adequately embodies its corporate thrust of blending innovation with comfort.

"Serendra is our attempt at giving everyone the best of both worlds," says ALI president Francisco Licuanan III, describing the beginnings of their newest residential development that is now rising in a prime location within Bonifacio Global City. "ALI is always on the lookout for exciting concepts and feasible properties. With our wealth of experience in the real estate industry, we know what will work and what won't in the Philippine setting. We know what the buyers are looking for and what they will appreciate."

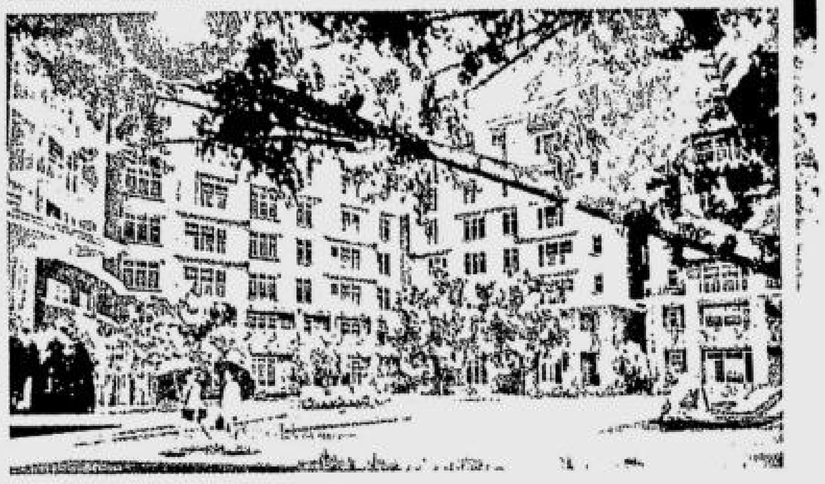
Imagine waking up without rushing, unlike mornings past when you have to endure a quick cold shower, miss breakfast, or put on makeup in the car. When you live at Serendra, you could sleep in for a while longer if you want to. You and your loved ones can have a leisurely breakfast of freshly baked pastries and a cup of steaming brewed coffee or hot chocolate. After updating yourself by reading and not just glancing at the headlines of the newspaper, you can do a few laps in the swimming pool or finish your gym routine. You have a meeting at 9 a.m. but you don't worry, because driving to work will only take you a few minutes.

Combining the best elements from their existing residential projects, ALI creates a new lifestyle: the live-work-play-shop-learn lifestyle. "You live in a peaceful community and you are also close to nature. And your location is within the city so you can conveniently and quickly travel from your home to your office," explains Angela de Villa-Lacson, ALI senior vice president for the Residential Buildings Group and head of CII.

Serendra ends the compromise for people who either live in a cramped place in the city just to be able to live near their place of work on one hand, or for those who live in the spacey suburbs or countryside but have to sacrifice quality family time to drive or commute up to four hours a day on the other hand.

Serendra will have an abundance of open space and gardens for all residents. They can play, relax, stroll, lounge, or simply hang out. Country-club-like amenities for sports and recreational activities abound and spread generously throughout.

A profusion of gardens with different themes will be scattered throughout the site -- flower patches, fruit orchards, and kitchen herb patches. Residents will know once more what it's like to freely walk and run on lawns and gardens, feel the soil in their hands, and smell the flowers and early morning dew, right here in the metropolis.



WHILE following a European building inspiration, Serendra still adopts a 'contemporized' Filipino architectural style.

Shopping is just minutes away: The Fort, Greenbelt, Glorietta, not to mention Market! Market!, another ALI development, all practically a stay from the Serendra site.

Education is also no problem as Assumption, Don Bosco, Colegio de San Agustin and several learning institutions such as the Japanese and British International Schools are all in the vicinity.

Not only that, Serendra is located within Bonifacio Global City, a fast-rising business and technological district in the country, and situated very near the Makati Central Business District.

For ALI, what's important is that more people enjoy the benefits of this unique project. It has, therefore, assured that pricing is reasonable and competitive with a variety of unit designs and sizes.

Serendra appeals to a broad sector of the market, whether one is just making his or her way in the corporate world, a family-centered young urbanite couple wanting to raise their own family, full nesters who have growing children, empty nesters whose homes have grown too big for them after their children have left the family nest or retirees who want to be close to the city's conveniences.

Serendra has units to fit everyone's requirements and finances. Prices range from 2.5 million to 6 million for the budget-conscious, and from 6 million to 18 million for the upscale market. People who cannot afford the bigger units can own a smaller one but still get to enjoy the same set of benefits at an affordable price.

ALI has also assured the quality of the units by enlisting the country's eminent and most dynamic architects and interior designers to conceive the look and feel of each Serendra home. The result is an exquisite and practical blend of beauty, space and function.

At the heart of community is family

WHAT makes the perfect home? Love and harmony among members of the family certainly play a significant part, along with supportive and friendly neighbors. And yet it may still fall short of perfection. Some other essential things may be missing, some vital connections with work and the needs of the family, some much needed interludes with nature are not there.

For one, your home may be located such that you have to rise at dawn to give yourself and the children time for the long drive to the workplace and school. For another, a "self-contained community" is more often than not a developer's myth: you still have to drive miles and miles away to get to a mall or shopping center that adequately meet your needs. Or to a good hospital or a good school for the children.

Even more worrisome than these inconveniences is your concern mixed with guilt that your children may be growing up in an overcrowded place, not knowing nor experiencing the feeling of grass under their feet or earth in their hands or fresh air in their lungs.

Children are the main reason for any home; it nurtures and shapes them into the persons you want them to become. Home is also the harbor for newly married couples waiting for their first child, couples with growing or grown children, and retirees who are freed from the demands of making a living and raising children.

All these considerations are being addressed by the "live-work-play-shop-learn" lifestyle that is the lofty gospel of Ayala Land Inc.'s maiden residential project within the Bonifacio Global City. Aptly called Serendra, it is "a serene community within the city," in the words of ALI senior vice president Angela de Villa-Lacson.

Ideal for raising a family is this 12-hectare development which feels more like a park or garden as two-thirds of the land area is devoted to themed landscapes and pocket gardens. "People would rather live in a place with lots of open space," observes Lacson, who also says that Serendra incorporates mostly the unique and winning features of ALI's residential projects.

This pedestrian community is perfect for those "growing up years," allowing children room for play in an open yet secure environment. With vehicles assigned in designated areas and parking strictly only in the basements of the buildings, there is no need to worry about pollution or accidents for babies in prams, children chasing each other, elderly strollers, or joggers.

Young couples who always look for exclusive quality time with each other can take late afternoon walks across a tapestry of green and stone or spend a romantic evening at a quaint café at the Promenade.

Here, even families with grown-up kids can find many opportunities for bonding moments at specialty dining areas, coffee shops, favorite delis, and even bakeries. Teens can chat with friends, or shop for unique, specialty items not usually found in the big malls.

With country-club-like amenities, such as multipurpose courts, game rooms, fitness centers, swimming pools, and even satellite amenities in the different sections, single and active people will easily find variety of activities to do in Serendra.

Older couples can enjoy life at a leisurely pace, free to reflect and bask in the simple joys, like playing with their grandchildren or having weekend picnics.

And with the development so accessible to reputable schools and hospitals and especially the Makati Central Business District, all of life's conveniences can be enjoyed by the whole family in just a matter of minutes.

Serendra aims for innovation, says Lacson, "not for innovation's sake, but for the people." Indeed, it is possible to have it all, and you don't have to pay a steep price. Serendra is designed for a broad market so that there are units tailored, and affordable, for everyone.

"We build not just residences but communities," says Francisco Licuanan, president of ALI, "places where people can live, grow up, interact, and most of all belong." And at the heart of the community is the family. This is the essential concept, design and spirit of Serendra.

The greening of *Serendra*

EVERYTHING about Serendra is conducive to living the live-work-play-learn-love lifestyle-from the buildings to the amenities to the foliage. No detail is too small, no stone left unturned, particularly when it come to the landscaping of this verdant community.

Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) and Community Innovations Inc. (CII) have made sure that the landscape of Serendra is not simply space allotted at the end of the completion of buildings for the landscape architect to tinker with.

Here, about two-thirds of the entire development is reserved for greenery and other landscape features. The creation of a one-of-a-kind urban sanctuary where the conveniences of the city meld harmoniously with the beauty of nature is the product of the close partnership between the master planner and landscape architect.

A world-class firm takes over the landscape

Trust ALI and CII to bring the best minds together in one project.

After deciding on Moore Rubel Yudell (MRY) to do the master plan, California-based firm Mia Lehrer and Associates was chosen to do the landscape design after consultations with MRY.

According to Joel N. Luna, ALI assistant vice president of the Technical Planning Division, Mia Lehrer was picked for their "experience in designing with the tropics, and their familiarity with the plant types used here." The firm was capable not only in the "creative aspects of landscape planning, but also in the technical aspects," he adds.

Led by Mia Lehrer and Esther Margulies, Mia Lehrer & Associates has completed various public and private projects including large urban parks, corporate landscapes and private residential gardens. The firm has earned prestigious awards and has been published in international journals. Mia Lehrer is especially interested in the design of public landscapes, making Serendra an apt undertaking for the firm.

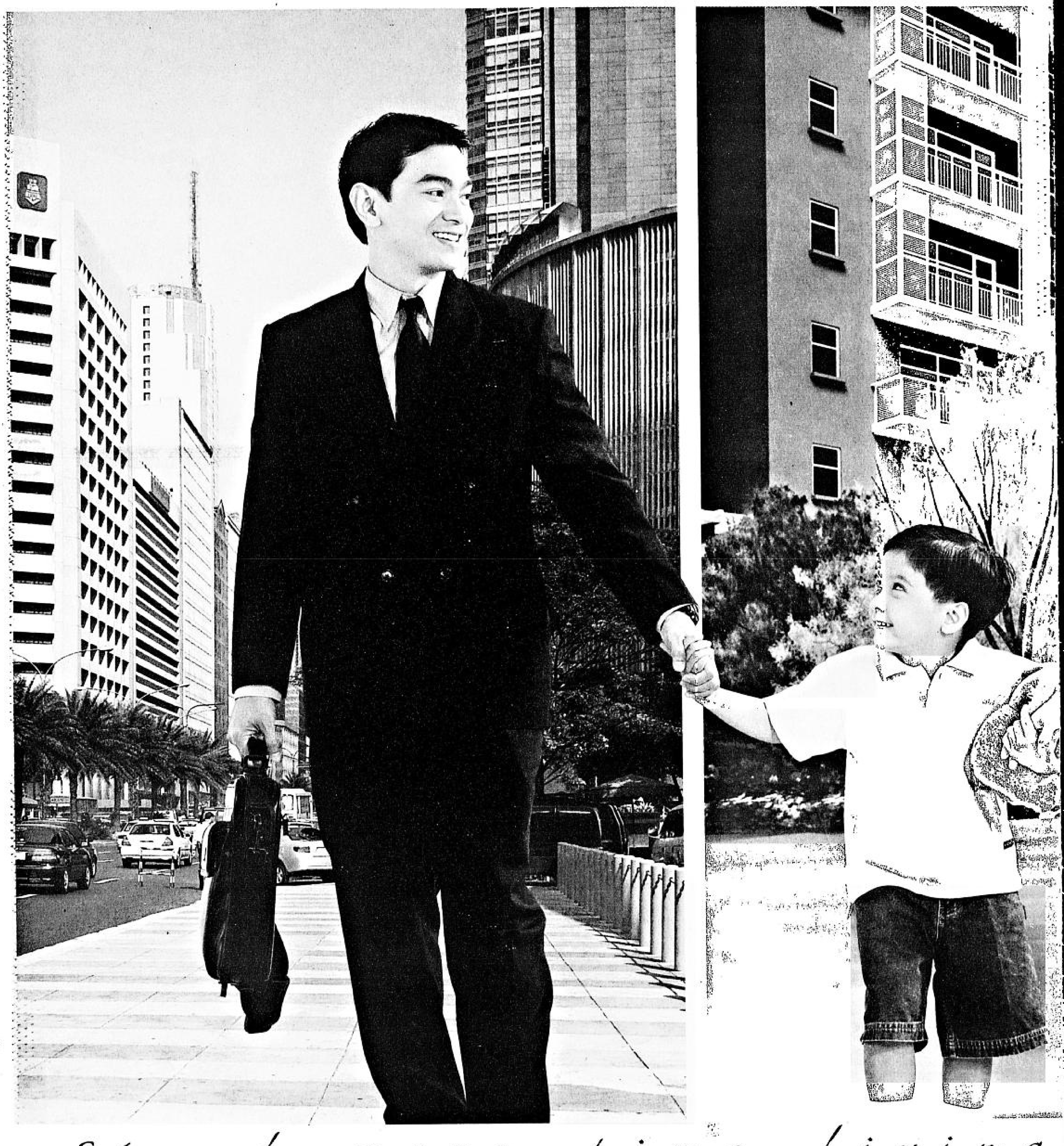
A bird's eye view of the Serendra landscape

Following a thematic approach in the planning of open spaces, Mia Lehrer drew inspiration from the serpentine forms of MRY's building configurations, thus the echo of curves seen in several features of the landscape like the paving of the ground and the water elements, such as the streams and swimming pools.

Aside from the main gardens, Mia Lehrer also infused small spaces with charming themes, coming up with several courtyard gardens. Fragrant and flowering plants find home in scented gardens, green textured foliage and some white flowering plants abound in oriental gardens, while broadleaf and colored foliage and flowering plants flourish in tropical gardens. Residents can also walk around fruit orchards and kitchen and herb gardens, or recharge in reflexology and meditation gardens, or be inspired by art in the sculpture garden.

For more active individuals, there are fitness trails and multi-pur-

GREENING/ F4



Spend more time living

AYALA LAND, INC.

If you think you've given them everything, maybe it's time you gave your family their own sanctuary. At Serendra, a master-planned, European-inspired residential development dedicated to promoting family bonding. It's a mere 10-minute drive from the country's financial hub but worlds away from the concrete jungle. With more than half of its sprawling 12-hectare expanse devoted to lush greenery, it's a garden community like

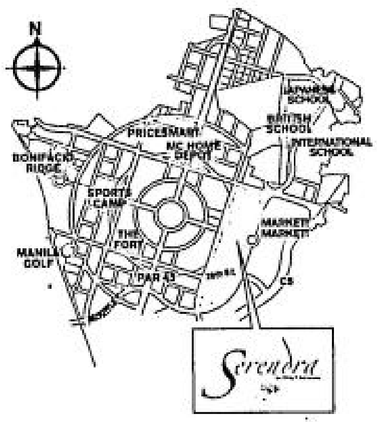
SERENDRA at the BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY.

Filipino families, almost as a rule, love the vast open spaces of suburban living even if they have to endure hours in traffic. However, because of the demands of time and making a living, they are often forced to compromise into living in near but cramped condos.

Now, they can stop compromising. Ayala Land, Inc. and Community Innovations, Inc., have come up with a master plan for a truly family-centered lifestyle. Wherein everything desirable about living in the suburbs is brought wonderfully, and conveniently, near. Where families can spend more time together yet still find time for themselves.

Uniquely Close to Comfort.

Serendra is a sprawling 12-hectare joint development project with Bases Conversion Dev't Authority (BCDA). It is centrally-located; just a few minutes from Makati's central business district, Serendra is also near Pasig and the south - close to work, school,, and everything else. It is accessible through several access points, such as McKinley Road, Kalayaan and C-5.



A Distinct Mix of European Inspiration and Filipino Flair.

The vision is to build a community designed to cater to families at every life-stage. A pool of world renowned architects and consultants were involved in the planning process to achieve this. Extensive research was also done on some distinguished communities in Europe.

The result is Serendra. Built upon the tradition of European residential planning, but with a contemporized Filipino style, it brings together the best of both worlds.

Giving Life to a Refreshing Concept.

Serendra is a secure enclave of terraced buildings of six to nine storeys that then flow out to taller structures. Conceived to be a pedestrian community, it will be set amidst courtyards and private gardens, with pleasant pathways instead of roads. The idea is to have a safe, people-friendly green oasis in the city.

Aside from the gardens and pathways, Serendra's amenities will center on families spending more time together. Both active and passive diversions will be emphasized. There are ample amenities comparable to a country club . Function rooms for parties and other gatherings. Game rooms where the youth and the young-at-heart can meet and play. There are even day-care centers for the kids.

Within the complex are fitness facilities and multi-purpose courts. There will be indoor basketball and badminton courts for neighborhood fun. Satellite amenities will be found all over the project, offering pools and additional function rooms.

From Interaction to Recreation.

At the center of Serendra is a quaint and enchanting row of shops, boutiques and dining places called the Promenade.

The Promenade promises discoveries in both shopping and dining. It is conceived as a lively pedestrian mall that puts together a mix of Filipino, Asian, and Continental themed restos, specialty retail shops, and service outlets. Housed in a two-level indoor and outdoor environment that circles a landscaped plaza, the Promenade makes you feel like you're on Main Street in some friendly, far-off town.

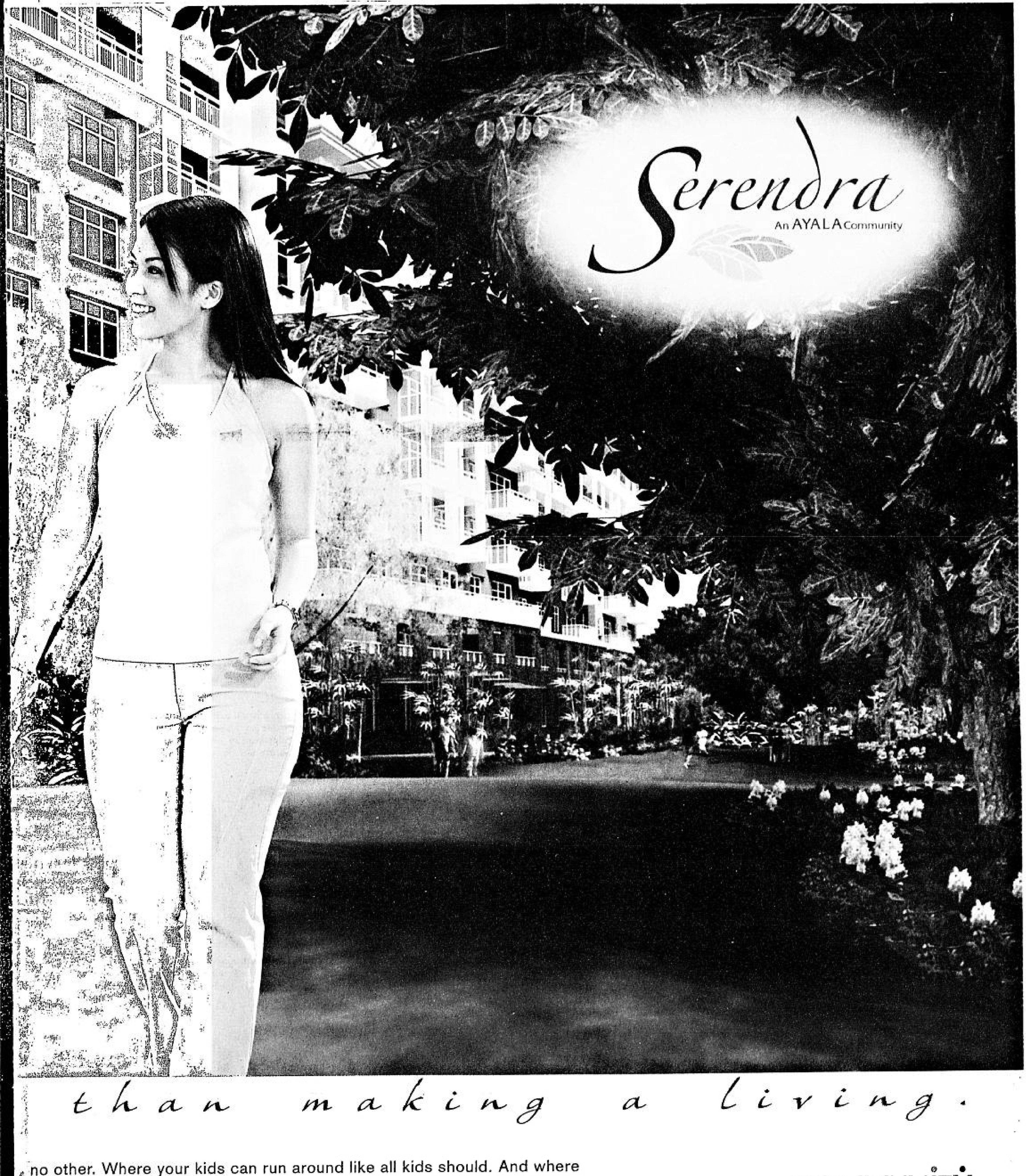
End the Compromise.

Chock full of features and conveniences, and managed by the Ayala Property Management Corp., Serendra promises to be a wise decision that will grow in value as your family grows.

So if you thought your two choices were spend less time with your family by living in a quiet but faraway suburban community; or live in a conveniently near but crowded condominium, let us propose a third.

Serendra. Your family's sanctuary in the city.

Serendra
An AYALA Community



than making a living.

no other. Where your kids can run around like all kids should. And where you and your other half can rediscover the things that make you whole.

Serendra. Your family's sanctuary in the city.

COMMUNITY
INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company

For announcement purposes only

Ayala Land holds flower arrangement workshop, gives taste of serene living in the city

REAL estate giant Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) together with Community Innovations, Inc. (CII) treats members of the media to an afternoon of flower arrangement and creative home ideas at The Sales Pavilion, 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City.

Pleasantries Flower Shop owner Roberta Araneta demonstrates an easy-to-make flower arrangement suitable for every home. Araneta, who holds a floral design certificate from Parsons School of Design in New York, explains that flower arrangements need not be expensive and complicated.

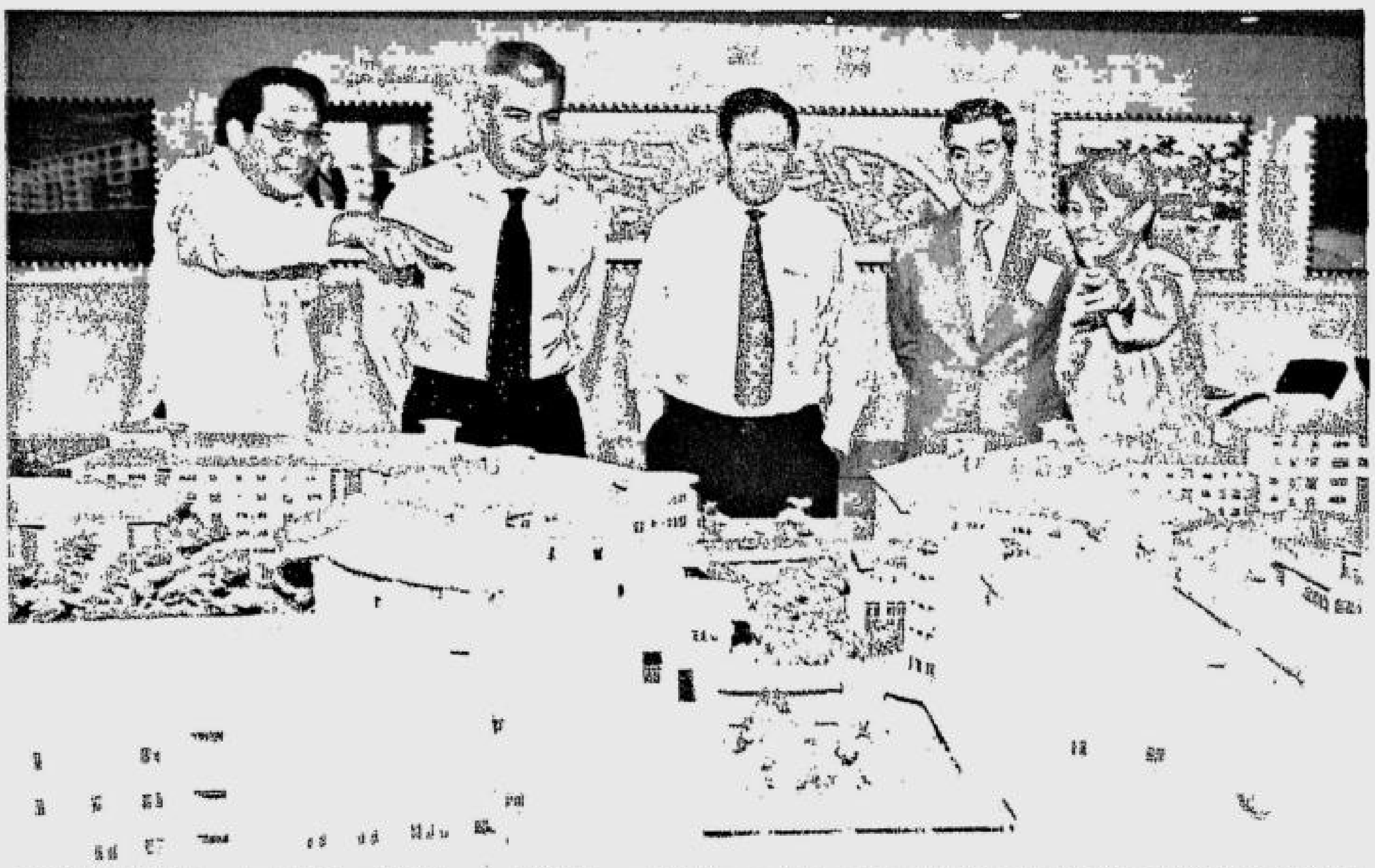
"In fact, the flowers and foliage can be found in your own garden," says Araneta. "You just have to be creative and resourceful to achieve an elegant centerpiece for any occasion," she adds.

The workshop, hosted by "F" girl Daphne Oseña Paez, is a sneak preview of the major launch of ALI's newest residential development slated on March 25. This project, aptly called Serendra, is ALI's premier development that combines the convenience of living in the city and the beauty of nature.

This activity was part of the program that marked the opening of the Serendra sales pavilion, starting with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by ALI officials Fernando Zobel de Ayala, chair; Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, vice chair; Francisco Licuanan, president; Jimmy Ayala, executive vice president; and Angela de Villa-Lacson, senior vice president for the Residential Buildings Group and head of CII.

Serendra is a large-scale, yet low-density development that occupies a 12-hectare lot in Bonifacio Global City - about 65 percent of which is open space and lush greenery interspersed with intimate garden areas. Its proximity to the major airport, the country's financial and business district, schools and shopping malls makes it the ideal home for the modern Filipino family.

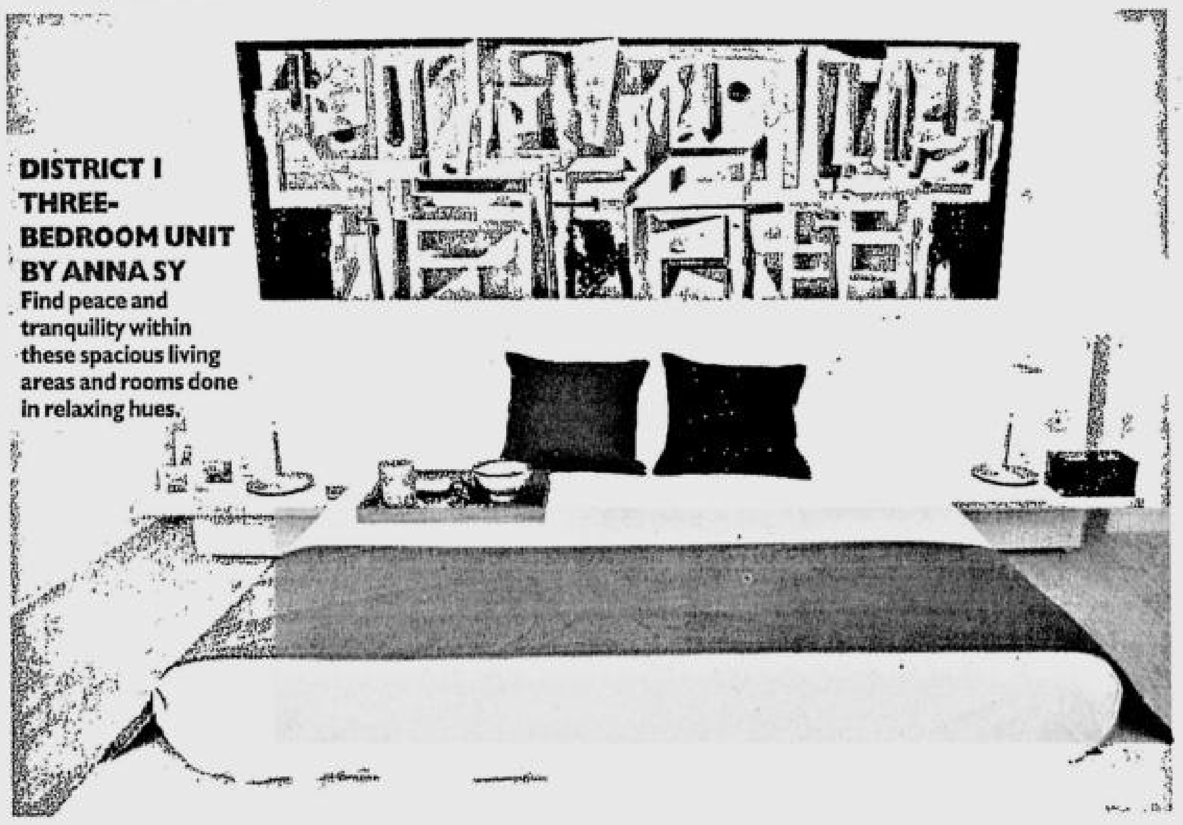
Serendra is a joint project of ALI and CII.



ALI officials EVP Jaime Ayala (left) and SVP Angela de Villa-Lacson (right) present the scale model of Serendra to (from left) Fernando Zobel de Ayala (chairman), Francisco Licuanan III (president) and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala (vice chairman) during the opening of the Serendra Sales Pavilion.

DISTRICT 2 STUDIO UNIT BY ANTON MENDOZA
Meticulous use of space is evident in this studio unit, where design provides residents what they want: comfort, convenience and style.

ALI officials formally open the Serendra Sales Pavilion led by Fernando Zobel de Ayala (center), Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala (2nd from left), Francisco Licuanan III (4th from left), Jaime Ayala (right), and Angela de Villa-Lacson (left).



DISTRICT I THREE-BEDROOM UNIT BY ANNA SY
Find peace and tranquility within these spacious living areas and rooms done in relaxing hues.

Serendra is a large-scale, yet low-density development that occupies a 12-hectare lot in Bonifacio Global City-65% of which is open space and lush greenery interspersed with intimate garden areas

ALI President Francisco Licuanan III: 'Innovation drives us at Ayala Land that is why we are designing Serendra to be a human-scaled development-a pedestrian community for those of us who love taking long walks in nature with no cars in sight, with the people who matter most in our lives.'

"F" girl and event host Daphne Oseña-Paez warms up media participants before their first look at the launch of Serendra, Ayala Land's nature-themed residential community in Fort Bonifacio.

The greening of Serendra

From page F2

pose courts for various sports, of course. Amenities such as pavilions, social halls, clubhouses and various activity and play areas provide ample space for building and strengthening relationships.

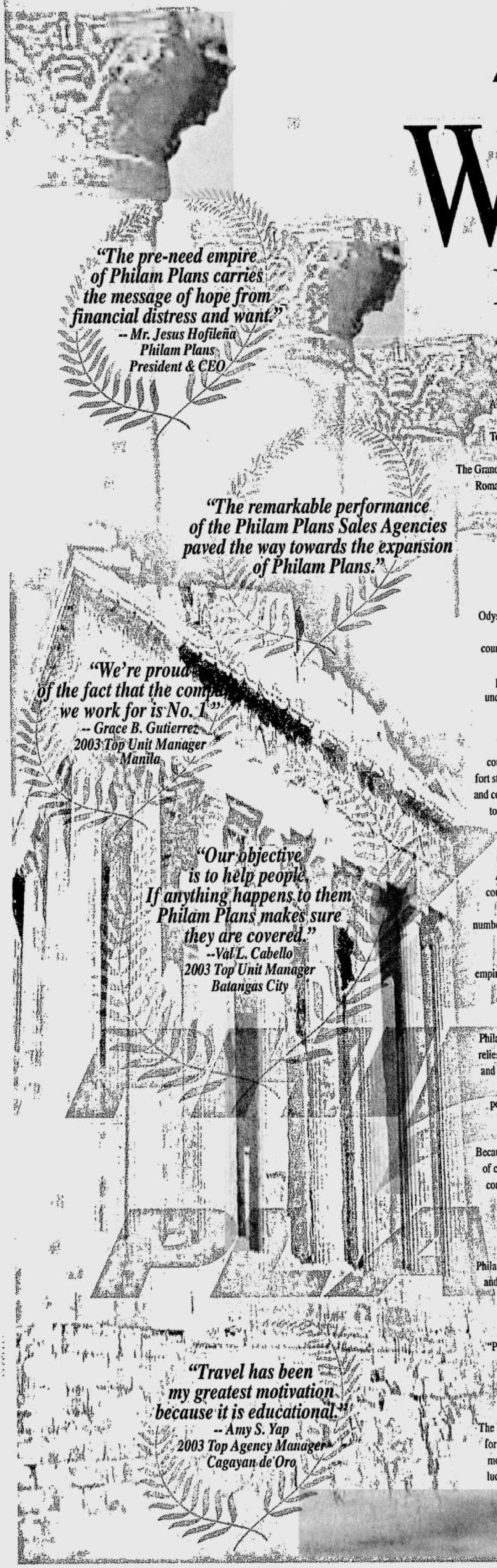
The firm also contributed immensely to the various views that each unit and entryway would look out to. Garden-level units-considered another special element of Serendra-open out to the main gardens and terraces fit for outdoor dining and entertaining. Fountains, lights and colorful paving surround the Promenade.

The end result is a wide expanse of space where residents can walk freely under large-canopy trees, where children can run around freely without pollution or fear of the dangers of moving vehicles, where kindred spirits can stroll along the Promenade, play to better health and relationships, inspire the spirit amidst artistic surroundings.

PHILAM PLANS

WE RULE!

Philam Plans Builds a Pre-Need Empire



"The pre-need empire of Philam Plans carries the message of hope from financial distress and want."
-- Mr. Jesus Hofileña
Philam Plans
President & CEO

"The remarkable performance of the Philam Plans Sales Agencies paved the way towards the expansion of Philam Plans."

"We're proud of the fact that the comp[illegible] we work for is No. 1."
-- Grace B. Gutierrez
2003 Top Unit Manager
Manila

"Our objective is to help people. If anything happens to them Philam Plans makes sure they are covered."
--Val L. Cabello
2003 Top Unit Manager
Batangas City

"Travel has been my greatest motivation because it is educational."
-- Amy S. Yap
2003 Top Agency Manager
Cagayan de Oro

As in the days of Greeks and Romans, the month of March is the season for the Roman New Year. This is also the celebration of the Bacchanalia, a spring festival of prosperity and abundance. To relive the spirit of Roman times, Philam Plans, the sovereign pre-need company in the country, will honor the best Sales Force in the industry during the company's Annual Awards Ceremony. The Grand Ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel will be transformed into an Amphitheatre where Romans celebrate their important occasions. To further enliven the Graeco-Roman inspired gathering, both the honorees and members of the Philam Plans team will be clad in togas and full regalia befitting the progressive people of Greece and Rome.

It is not only the look that resonates the Graeco-Roman spirit. The staggering performance of the Philam Plans sales counselors, who rallied the whole year of 2003, also calls to mind the valiant feats of heroes and heroines of The Odyssey.

Odysseus triumphed after a long voyage of hardships and challenges, reigning supreme over physical and supernatural forces within and beyond his control. Just like Odysseus, the triumphant sales counselors of Philam Plans have achieved much after a yearlong journey of difficulties and obstacles brought about by the country's weak economy, political instability and below-par industry-wide performance of other pre-need companies. Innovativeness, perseverance, honed skills and a basic understanding and empathy of the client's needs have made the sales counselors not less than heroic in their quest to make others' lives and their own better through wise financial planning.

With their valor, ingenuity, initiative and perseverance, the remarkable performance of the sales counselors paved Roman Road towards the expansion of the Philam Plans Empire. As they kept the fort stronger in traditional areas such as Metro Manila and the whole of Luzon, they also made inroads and conquered Visayas, Mindanao and the overseas market. This spirit has made Philam Plans land the top position back-to-back for 2002 and 2003. Moreover, Philam Plans has remained the undisputed leader in pension for 5 straight years, and a strong second in education plans with only .02% difference in market share from the leading educational plan company in the past year.

As the number of honorees far exceeded those of past years, the benevolent reign of Philam Plans couldn't be any happier when they announced the deserving set of Annual Awardees for this year. A total of 74 awardees is set to be honored in tonight's much-anticipated event. This unprecedented number is reflective of Philam Plans' dedicated thrust to expand the ideals of the company and to better serve its more than 500,000 planholders with responsive and value-for-money products. Whereas other pre-need companies need to dig deep into their reserves, the great and grand Philam Plans empire has successfully maintained its liquidity and trustworthiness as a result of good governance and sound financial management, with its core strength backed up by worldwide financial giant AIG International, as well as the country's leading insurance company, Philam Life.

Philam Plans rules the pre-need world due to this fact and so much more. The astonishing sales output relies on the outstanding benchmark that the company has put upon itself. A unique core of innovation and resolute implementation of ideals of what a pre-need company should be have largely contributed to the enthusiasm of its employees and sales force. Inevitably, these qualities have attracted many people to join the company. Philam Plans has in its roster a formidable force to reckon with, 10,000 active and strong counselors, as the number continue to grow and multiply, year after year.

Because of its high standards, high rewards, and benevolence, Philam Plans remains to be the company of choice among pre-need professionals. As an empire in the pre-need industry, Philam Plans remains committed to achieving grandiose standards for itself. It is the only pre-need company that can claim subscription to the stringent AIG standards and Sarbanes-Oxley Act that requires a high level of conscientiousness in assuring long-term profits and liquidity for financial-based companies. All services rendered by the company have also passed ISO standards with flying colors.

Philam Plans is also a leader in providing superior training programs to equip the counselors with skills and planholder-oriented service. On a regular basis, the company upgrades these training programs to keep up with current needs and situations, making sure that the sales counselors are more than ready to face the numerous challenges hurled in their direction.

"Philam Plans has earned a reputation for financial strength and stability. The company continuously launches innovative investment products. It has a good agency compensation scheme and overall working culture that just cannot be duplicated by others," remarks Philam Plans Senior Agency Manager, Nickel Agency Amelia Yap, one of tonight's awardees.

The leadership of Philam Plans also gives paramount importance to social awareness by providing jobs for Filipinos that could make their dreams of a brighter future come true. In tonight's Annual Awards, most of the awardees have been earning hundreds of thousands, if not millions, every year, with their lucrative careers with Philam Plans. This scenario is very much different from the overall joblessness in other industries, where even top-level management earn much less than what they deserve.

(continued on page 4)

PHILAM

THE BEST DOM

Within this page, you will discover the extraordinary and selfl
These Philam Plans heroes withstood the test of time -- coming through against adversities, working l
They provide the POWER to break the country's pre-need records and the CONSIS
THEY ARE THE BEST OF OUR VERY BEST.

TOP AWARDS
Top 10 Agency Managers

1st Place
oseph Vincent D. Tiamson
J.D.Tiamson & Associates
Luzon 5

2nd Place
Amelia S. Yap
Nickel Agency
Mindanao 1

3rd Place
Grace M. Remo
G. Remo & Associates
Manila North 2

4th Place
Remando E. Arcibal
R. Arcibal & Associates
Manila South 5

5th Place
Elizabeth T. Mercado
E. Mercado & Associates
Manila North 3

Top 10 [illegible] Managers

1st Place
B[illegible]es G. Tiamson
J.D. Tiamson & Associates
Luzon 5

2nd Place
Danilo L. Mercado
E. Mercado & Associates
Manila North 3

3rd Place
Grace B. Gutierrez
G. Remo & Associates
Manila North 2

4th Place
Viviane E. Montano
L. Pedroso & Associates
Manila South 10

5th Place
Teresita P. Uy
Gen. McArthur Agency
Visayas 1

6th Place
Michael Angelo B. Florendo
S. Tan & Associates
Manila North 2

7th Place
Stephen T. Villahermosa
S. Villahermosa & Associates
Manila South 4

8th Place
Tristan S. Dumayas
R. Dumayas & Associates
Luzon 2

9th Place
Delia N. Fernandez
E. Mercado & Associates
Manila North 3

10th Place
Laura A. Tiongson
Nickel Agency
Mindanao 1

NATIONAL QUALITY AWARDS

Top 3 Agency Managers

1st Place
Grace M. Remo
G. Remo & Associates
Manila North 2

2nd Place
Ailin Grace O. Dimacuha
A. Dimacuha & Associates
Luzon 5

ROOKIE AWA
Top 4 Ag
Mana

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

M PLANS

INATE THE REST!

ss men and women's will to DOMINATE via the POWER OF ONE.
arder to overcome struggles, CROSSING ALL HURDLES. They are what made Philam Plans NUMBER 1.
TENCY to sustain the over-all PRE-NEED championship for the SECOND year running!
THEY ARE THE PHILAM PLANS 2003 AWARDEES!

6th Place
Aurelio M. Clariño
A.M. Clariño & Associates
Manila North 7

7th Place
Carolina B. Bautista
C.B. Bautista & Associates
Manila South 1

8th Place
Samuel C. Tan
S. Tan & Associates
Manila North 2

9th Place
Francisco B. Bautista
F. Bautista & Associates
Luzon 5

10th Place
Allan G. Tuazon
A.G. Tuazon & Associates
Luzon 4

Top 5 District Managers

1st Place
Adolfo C. Remo
G. Remo & Associates
Manila North 2

2nd Place
Alma C. Clariño
A.M. Clariño & Associates
Manila North 7

3rd Place
Wilfrido R. Villahermosa
S. Villahermosa & Associates
Manila South 4

4th Place
Benjamin T. Que
Nickel Agency
Mindanao 1

5th Place
Norma [illegible] Ampon
C.B. Bautista & Associates
Manila South 1

6th Place
Arnolfo A. Piñero, Jr.
W. Piñero & Associates
Mindanao 1

7th Place
Trinidad V. Castillo
F.C. Borreo & Associates
Manila South 1

8th Place
Valentina C. Monte de Ramos
China Agency
Mindanao 1

9th Place
Cassandro S. Dumayas
R. Dumayas & Associates
Luzon 2

10th Place
Valentino L. Cabello
Tizon & Associates
Luzon 5

Top 20 Sales Counselors

1st Place
Melissa N. Espinosa
L. Pedrosa & Associates
Manila South 10

2nd Place
Ma. Cecilia J. Roldan
A.M. Clariño & Associates
Manila North 7

3rd Place
Elaine P. Bautista
G. Remo & Associates
Manila North 2

4th Place
Nydia T. Chavez
P.R. Tolentino & Associates
Manila South 7

5th Place
Charles V. Ty
E. Mercado & Associates
Manila North 3

11th Place
Jina Perpetua S. Adarme
E.V. La Chica & Associates
Manila South 2

12th Place
Belinda A. Co
F.C. Borreo & Associates
Manila South 1

13th Place
Edna D. Elipe
A.M. Ladonia & Associates
Mindanao 1

14th Place
Salvacion F. Jose
A. Almanzor & Associates
Manila South 8

15th Place
Arthur V. Ty
E. Mercado & Associates
Manila North 3

16th Place
Roland Ramos
China Agency
Mindanao 1

17th Place
Conrado Q. Tan
S.T. Padilla & Associates
Manila South 1

18th Place
Chere Madeleine B. Reyes
G. Remo & Associates
Manila North 2

19th Place
Melagros B. Caldeo
R. Santos & Associates
Manila North 7

20th Place
Willyn E. Arcadio
Nickel Agency
Mindanao 1

3rd Place
Mely S. Jamandre
M.S. Jamandre & Associates
Manila South 1

Top 3 District Managers

1st Place
Adolfo C. Remo
G. Remo & Associates
Manila North 2

2nd Place
Eric T. Bautista
F. Bautista & Associates
Luzon 5

3rd Place
Wilfrido R. Villahermosa
S. Villahermosa & Associates
Manila South 4

Top 3 Unit Managers

1st Place
Lydia A. Ramirez
J. Ramirez & Associates
Luzon 5

2nd Place
Felipe V. Dela Fuente
O. Dela Fuente & Associates
Luzon 3

3rd Place
Nelson Y. Petines
C.R. Petines & Associates
Manila South 7

Top 3 Sales Counselors

1st Place
Reginald R. Petines
C.R. Petines & Associates
Manila South 7

2nd Place
Melissa N. Espinosa
L. Pedrosa & Associates
Manila South 10

3rd Place
Raymond B. Orimaco
Salazar-Ubuhan Agency
Visayas 3

RDS
ncy
gers

1st Place
Joseph Vincent D. Tiamson
J.D.Tiamson & Associates
Luzon 5

2nd Place
Nimfa J. Alcordo
N. Alcordo & Associates
Visayas 3

3rd Place
Roderick S. De Leon
R. De Leon & Associates
Manila South 9

4th Place
Editha V. La Chica
E.V. La Chica & Associates
Manila South 2

Top 5 District Managers

1st Place
Benjamin T. Que
Nickel Agency
Mindanao 1

2nd Place
Noel R. Magsino
R. Arcibal & Associates
Manila South 5

3rd Place
Wilfrido R. Villahermosa
S. Villahermosa & Associates
Manila South 4

4th Place
Ellen F. De Leon
R. Arcibal & Associates
Manila South 5

5th Place
Elsie C. Sales
F. C. Borreo & Associates
Manila South 1

Top 5 Unit Managers

1st Place
Babes G. Tiamson
J.D. Tiamson & Associates
Luzon 5

2nd Place
Jose Antonio T. Que
Nickel Agency
Mindanao 1

3rd Place
Gracia C. Boquiren
Mercury Agency
Mindanao 1

4th Place
Claudio E. Tubar
N. Alcordo & Associates
Visayas 3

5th Place
John Estanislaus P. Arcadio
Nickel Agency
Mindanao 1

Top 10 Sales Counselors

1st Place
Ma. Cecilia J. Roldan
A.M. Clariño & Associates
Manila North 7

2nd Place
Laura A. Tiongson
Nickel Agency
Mindanao 1

3rd Place
Jina Perpetua S. Adarme
E.V. La Chica & Associates
Manila South 2

4th Place
Belinda A. Co
F.C. Borreo & Associates
Manila South 1

5th Place
Chere Madeleine B. Reyes
G. Remo & Associates
Manila North 2

6th Place
Willyn E. Arcadio
Nickel Agency
Mindanao 1

7th Place
Alex Gregorio A. Boquiren
Mercury Agency
Mindanao 1

8th Place
Ronalie C. Samson
N. Alcordo & Associates
Visayas 3

9th Place
Teodora B. Enage
Gen. McArthur Agency
Visayas 1

10th Place
Helen L. Danao
Bulusan Agency
Luzon 6

SA/GB AWARDEES
Top 2 Unit Managers

1st Place
Guinevere Jane S. Tolentino
P.R. Tolentino & Associates
Manila South 7

2nd Place
Trinidad V. Castillo
F.C. Borreo & Associates
Manila South 1

Top 3 Sales Counselors

1st Place
Ma. Cecilia J. Roldan
A.M. Clariño & Associates
Manila North 7

2nd Place
Nydia T. Chavez
P.R. Tolentino & Associates
Manila South 7

3rd Place
Belinda A. Co
F.C. Borreo & Associates
Manila South 1

PRESIDENT'S HONOR CLUB

Associate Members

Amelia S. Yap
Grace M. Remo
Carolina B. Bautista
Francisco B. Bautista
Allan G. Tuazon
Romerico H. Dulay
Melania L. Tizon
Estela C. Hilario
Jose D. Ramirez
Adolfo C. Remo
Grace B. Gutierrez
Valentino L. Cabello
Ma. Socorro R. Opeña
John Gerard C. Lasam
Ma. Iris Katherine N. Gloria

Life Member
Remando E. Arcibal

CHAIRMAN'S COUNCIL MEMBERS

Allan G. Tuazon - *Agency Manager*
Francisco B. Bautista - *Agency Manager*
Alma C. Clariño - *District Manager*
Danilo L. Mercado - *Unit Manager*

Why join the rest when you can be the best! Call us at Philam Plans Call Center 528-5200.

PHILAM PLANS
One with the Filipino Family.

QUALITY ASSURED FIRM ISO 9002 SGS

PENSION • EDUCATION • LIFE

AIG A Member Company of American International Group, Inc.

AIG/ Philam Group Of Companies
The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company, Philam Savings Bank, Inc., Philam Plans Inc., Philam Care Health Systems, Inc., Philam Properties Corporation, Philam Asset Management, Inc., Philam Systems, Inc., Philam Insurance Company, Inc., AIG Credited Card Company Philippines, Inc.

"The Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) has not approved this advertisement or determined if this is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary constitutes a violation of the revised Securities Act & is criminally punishable. The public is encouraged to report immediately to the SEC any misrepresentation or false or inaccurate statement."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PHILAM PLANS

Of The People,
For All People

The essence of being a Philam Plans Sales counselor means more than having a lucrative career. Every Philam Plans counselor holds true to the same commitment that the company wants to achieve —a Mission to make Filipino lives better. And in making this possible, Philam Plans has taken upon itself the responsibility to create breakthrough and definitive ways and means to create the best environment for its People.

Of The People:
The company has earned a remarkable track record of compliance, not only with SEC, but also even with the more stringent standards of its parent companies: AIG International and Philamlife. Philam Plans is also the first and only pre-need company that initiated compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, a law that regulates all American financial companies.

The way the company handles itself –above-board and exemplary—is a source of strong motivation and dedication. Grace B. Gutierrez, a Unit Manager for Philam Plans and also an awardee says this about the company. "At Philam Plans, we are well taken care of. We have above-standard commissions and I have proven this from the research I have done before I worked full-time. I also use this research knowledge I have to help our agents so they will know how to answer any inquiry or any other competition or company that is in the selling business. I would always advise them to tell prospective planholders that it's a waste of time and money to buy insurance or pre-need from a disreputable company. We're proud of the fact that the company we work for is No.1 and we take pride in selling our products. Unlike other small and not liquid companies that would not even pass the SEC standards."

As of January 2004, Philam Plans holds liquid assets of approximately 10 Billion Pesos. As explained by Val Cabello of the Philam Plans M. Tizon & Associates Agency, this means that planholders can expect to be paid their claims even if no single pre-need plan is purchased from the company in the next 10 years.

Philam Plans endows its Sales Counselors with the armory of skills, service orientation and empathy to the planholders through intensive training and development programs, learning sessions and conferences and region-based activities and support. Philam Plans also places much effort in making the Sales Counselors understand the responsibility behind their professions and the social relevance of what they do.

The Annual Awards is one of the many ways that Philam Plans takes care of its people. "Philam Plans and my agency give me full support. Our President makes wise and sound decisions. Ang galing-galing talaga ni Mr. Hofileña," says Vic.

"I am really interested in sales ever since," adds Grace. "I have 15 years of selling experience. I was into direct selling of household/beauty products and real estate. But so far, Philam Plans has given me the best option to make my life better. I am proud to say that I am earning 6 figures with Philam Plans right now."

"I have little background in sales, because I started as a non-life underwriter for marine insurance," volunteers Vic. "But even without that, tit is not really hard to sell the products of Philam Plans, Because it is a good company. When I say I am from Philam Plans, clients would automatically recognize the company and the good standing it has. That makes my task easier."

"Making a living and getting large commissions with Philam Plans is really easy, and for my part, I share my resources and knowledge with all my agents so they can also be blessed with opportunities like me," says Grace.

"As long as we work hard and deliver the commitment, the company recognizes our efforts through recognition, fair compensation package, home furnishings, bonuses, life, accident and hospital benefits and traveling to places like Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, Las Vegas, Beijing and Macau. Travel has been my greatest motivation because it is educational," says Amelia Yap, Senior Agency manager for Philam Plans Nickel Agency.

For All People:
The culture ingrained in every Philam Plans employee and sales counselor is focused towards the service of the planholders.

Val Cabello, a District Manager for the Tanauan Branch Office aptly described it this way, "Our objective is to help the people I'm selling to. The primary reason is not just to get a commission. It is true that right now, they may not realize that I have helped secure their future, but after a number of years, they will understand that if I did not pursue the matter with them, they won't have a monthly pension, and no security. If anything happens to them, Philam Plans makes sure that they are covered."

Amelia S. Yap, another awardee, also relates, "We are into the People business. As such, it allows me to learn from the experiences shared by my friends and relatives, and now our planholders, regarding the business and one's life. I pray everyday that my enthusiasm and patience towards my work and my colleagues will never fade."

Philam Plans is set to strengthen and continue its efforts to make its People happy—and this includes the sales counselors and its planholders. "The only way we can do this is to really value the Trust given to us. Because they are the heart of the company, we give our sales counselors more than what they deserve. Furthermore, we have always insisted on good governance, compliance to both government and internal regulations and prudent financial management for the whole company. This is how we return the favor to our planholders – by assuring them that what they invested on will be given to them at the right time—no if's and but's," pronounces PPI President Jesus Hofileña.

(Continuation from front page)

"When we say we provide lucrative careers to our sales force, we make a stand to exhaust all means in providing excellent commissions and valuable rewards based on their performance. This strong support from the company has bore a bountiful harvest and we can see it in tonight's Philam Plans Annual Awards. We are blessed with a sales force that appreciates the company's efforts in giving them what they work for, thus, they are more than willing to also give their best to the company and to all our planholders," says Mr. Jesus Hofileña, President & CEO of Philam Plans.

Philam Plans has also developed outreach programs in the country and beyond to service the OFW workers. The company has developed pioneering products and services to prevent the OFWs from experiencing financial instability after they have worked long and hard in other countries. It is a common plight that many Filipinos who worked abroad have experienced in the past, but with the outreach efforts of the company and its sales counselors, these OFWs can retire with optimism and a new sense of beginning after their stint abroad.

A former OFW has also joined the Philam Plans family after working abroad for a number of years. Val L. Cabello, District Manager of the Tanauan Branch Office says that before Philam Plans, his routine consisted of house - going to work - back to house. "Now with Philam Plans, I really go places." Furthermore, Vic also relates that he can take better care of his family here, while earning much more than when he was in the Middle East as an OFW. "I told everyone that I would leave my work in the Middle East only if I can find work in the Philippines that can give me the same compensation. With Philam Plans, I was able to get more than what I earned before and I am no longer an absentee father."

Being the Number 1 pre-need company for Philam Plans, and being the No. 1 Sales Force in the Pre-need industry for the sales counselors won't be a deterrent to making greater headway and make them rest on their laurels. In fact, Philam Plans and its sales counselors look at this opportunity to prove their commitment to their responsibility to the planholders-the mission to bring financial stability to every Filipino family, and being bringers of good news through "savings" and " prudent investment".

"When we say We Rule, we make sure that this statement shall ring true in the most benevolent and beneficial way for our employees, sales counselors and, more importantly, the Planholders. The pre-need empire of Philam Plans carries the message of hope from financial distress and want," concludes Mr. Hofileña.

The Roman contributions to society and the world remain a moving force unto this day. These will not be ravaged by eons of time, and neither will the spirit of Philam Plans and its army. Achieving greater heights is a trait that is resonant with the culture and philosophy of every member of the vast Philam Plans Empire. They have substantiated these with results in the past, and they are out to continue with this excellent tradition in the years to come. Because they are out to stay on top and say to the world—We Rule!!!